

Course IMSc Chennai, India

January-March 2017

Enumerative and algebraic combinatorics,  
a bijective approach:

# commutations and heaps of pieces

(with interactions in physics, mathematics and computer science)

Monday and Thursday 14h-15h30

[www.xavierviennot.org/coursIMSc2017](http://www.xavierviennot.org/coursIMSc2017)



IMSc

January-March 2017

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# Chapter 4

Heaps and linear algebra:  
bijective proofs of classical theorems

(3)

IMSc, Chennai

13 February 2017

combinatorial  
(bijective) proofs  
of classical theorem  
in linear algebra

- MacMahon "master theorem"  
Cartier-Foata (1969)
- Matrix inversion  
Foata (1979)
- Jacobi identity  
(log det)  
Jackson (1977)  
Foata (1980)

- Cayley-Hamilton theorem  
Straubing (1983)  
Zeilberger (1985)
- Jacobi identity (duality)  
Lalonde (1990, 1996)  
Fomin (2001), Talaska (2012)

Jacobi duality

$$I = \{i_1, \dots, i_\ell\} \subseteq [1, k]$$

$$\bar{I} = [1, k] - I$$

$$J = \{j_1, \dots, j_\ell\} \subseteq [1, k]$$

$$\bar{J} = [1, k] - J$$

complement

$A$   $k \times k$  matrix

$\mathbb{1}$  unity  $k \times k$  matrix

$$s(I) = i_1 + \dots + i_\ell$$

$$s(J) = j_1 + \dots + j_\ell$$

$$\det \left( (\mathbb{1} - A)^{-1} [I, J] \right) =$$

$$\frac{(-1)^{s(I) + s(J)} \det \left( (\mathbb{1} - A) [J, \bar{I}] \right)}{\det(\mathbb{1} - A)}$$

$$\det(\mathbb{1} - A)$$

(main) Theorem

$$\det \left( (1 - A)^{-1} [I, J] \right) =$$

$$\sum (-1)^{\text{Inv}(\sigma)}$$

$$\sigma \in \mathcal{G}_{I, J}$$

set of bijections  
 $I \rightarrow J$

$$\sum$$

$$\eta_1: i_1 \mapsto \sigma(i_1)$$

$\vdots$

$$\eta_l: i_l \mapsto \sigma(i_l)$$

self-avoiding  
paths

pair-wise  
disjoint

$$v(\eta_1) \cdots v(\eta_l) v(E)$$

$E$   
heap of  
cycles

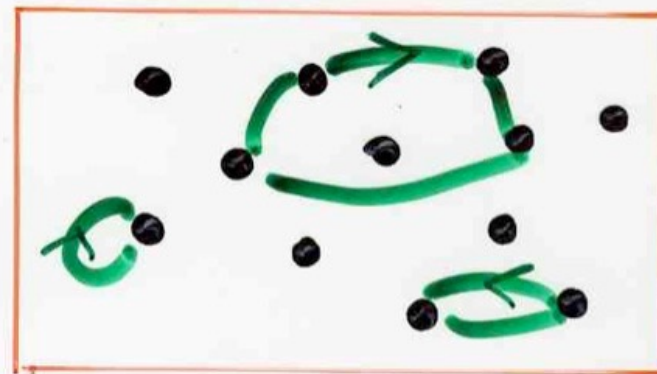
projection  
 $\pi(m)$   
maximal piece  
of  $E$   
intersect one  
of the path  $\eta$

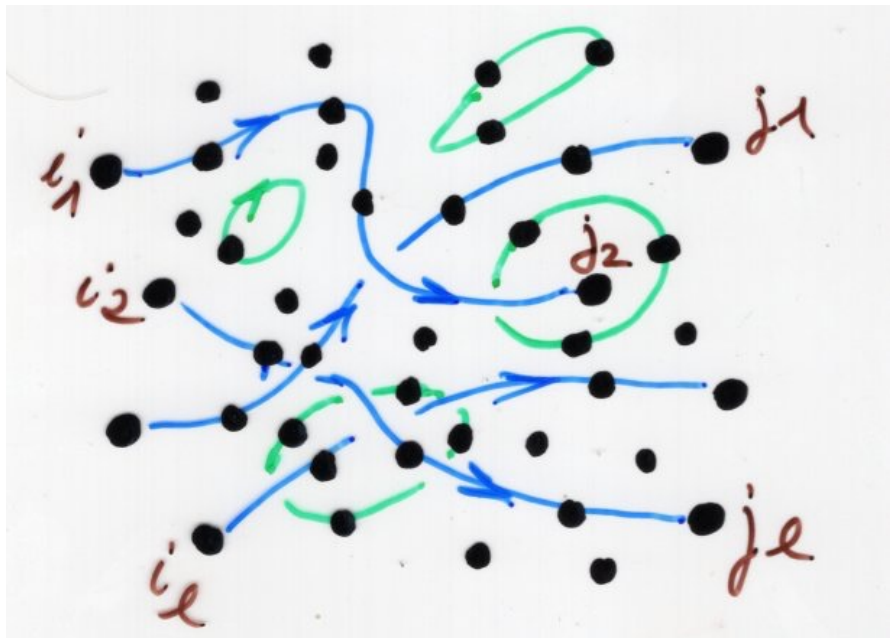
inversion  
lemma

$$\det \left( (1-A)^{-1} [I, J] \right) = \frac{N}{D}$$

$$\det(1-A) = \sum_{\{\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_r\}} (-1)^r v(\gamma_1) \dots v(\gamma_r)$$

2 by 2 disjoint cycles





$$N = \sum_{\sigma \in \mathcal{G}_{I,J}} (-1)^{\text{Inv}(\sigma)} \sum_{\{\eta_1, \dots, \eta_l\}} (-1)^r v(\eta_1) \cdots v(\eta_l) v(\gamma_1) \cdots v(\gamma_r)$$

$\sigma \in \mathcal{G}_{I,J}$   
 set of bijections  $I \rightarrow J$

$\{\eta_1, \dots, \eta_l\}$  self-avoiding  
 $\{\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_r\}$  cycles  
 $\eta_i: i \mapsto \sigma(i)$

pair-wise disjoint



special case 1

$$\begin{aligned} I &= \{i\} \\ J &= \{j\} \end{aligned}$$

$$\det \left( (1-A)^{-1} [I, J] \right)$$

=

$$\sum_{i \leftrightarrow j} v(\omega)$$

path  $\omega$   
on  $X$   $\longleftrightarrow$   $(\eta, E)$

$$\sum_{\substack{\omega \\ i \rightsquigarrow j}} v(\omega) =$$

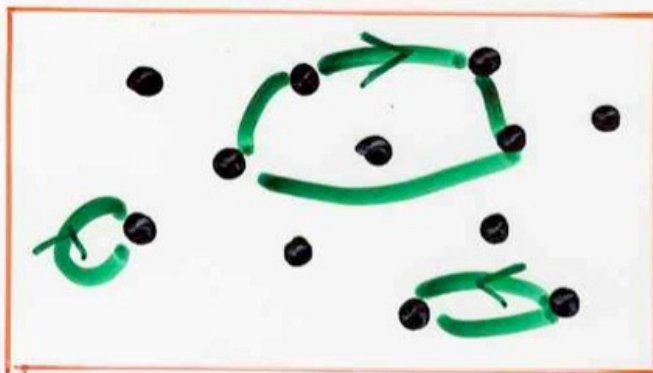
$$\sum_{\substack{\eta \\ i \rightsquigarrow j \\ \text{self-avoiding}}} v(\eta) \sum_{\substack{E \\ \text{heap of cycles} \\ \pi(m) \text{ maximal} \\ \text{piece} \\ \text{intersecte } \eta}} v(E)$$

$$\frac{N_{\eta}}{D}$$

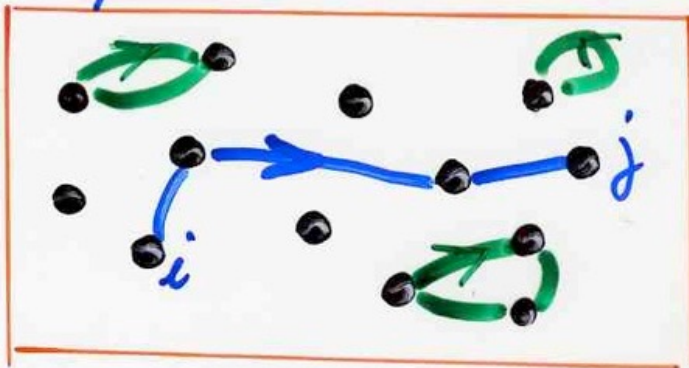
Prop.  $\sum_{\substack{\omega \\ i \rightsquigarrow j}} v(\omega) = \frac{N_{ij}}{D}$

$N_{ij} = \sum_{\substack{\gamma \\ \text{self-avoiding} \\ \text{path} \\ i \rightsquigarrow j}} v(\gamma) N_{\gamma}$

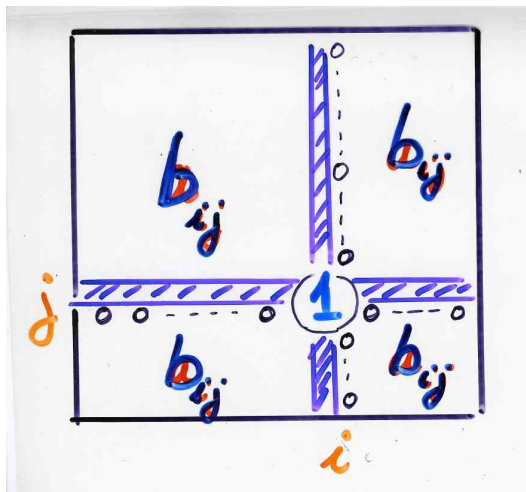
$D = \sum_{\substack{\{\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_r\} \\ \text{2 by 2 disjoint} \\ \text{cycles}}} (-1)^r v(\gamma_1) \dots v(\gamma_r)$



$N_{ij} = \sum_{\{\gamma; \gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_r\}} (-1)^r v(\gamma) v(\gamma_1) \dots v(\gamma_r)$



$$\text{cof}_{ji}(\mathbf{I}_k - \mathbf{A})$$



$$N_{ij} = \sum_{\{\eta; \gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_r\}} (-1)^r v(\eta) v(\gamma_1) \dots v(\gamma_r)$$

$\eta$  self-avoiding path  $i \rightarrow j$

$\{\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_r\}$   
 2 by 2 disjoint cycles,  
 and disjoint from  $\eta$

general case

$$\det \left( (1-A)^{-1} [I, J] \right) = \frac{N}{\det(1-A)}$$

$$N = \sum_{\sigma \in \mathcal{G}_{I, J}} (-1)^{\text{Inv}(\sigma)} \sum_{\{\eta_1, \dots, \eta_\ell\}} (-1)^r v(\eta_1) \cdots v(\eta_\ell) v(\gamma_1) \cdots v(\gamma_r)$$

$\sigma \in \mathcal{G}_{I, J}$   
set of bijections  $I \rightarrow J$

$\{\eta_1, \dots, \eta_\ell\}$  self-avoiding  
 $\{\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_r\}$  cycles  
 $\eta_i \rightarrow \sigma(\eta_i)$

pair-wise disjoint

# Lemma

$$(-1)^{\lambda(I) + \lambda(J)} \det \left( (1 - A) [\bar{J}, \bar{I}] \right)$$

=

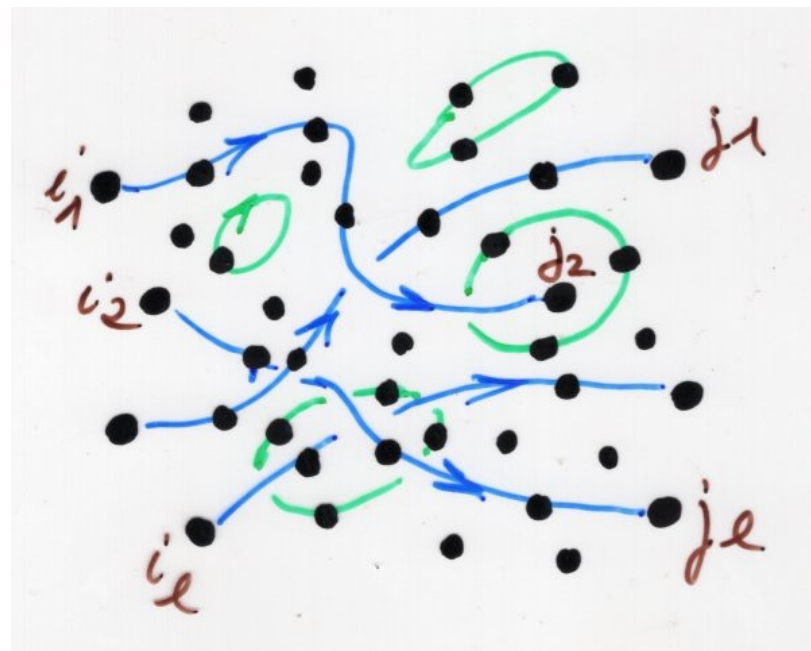
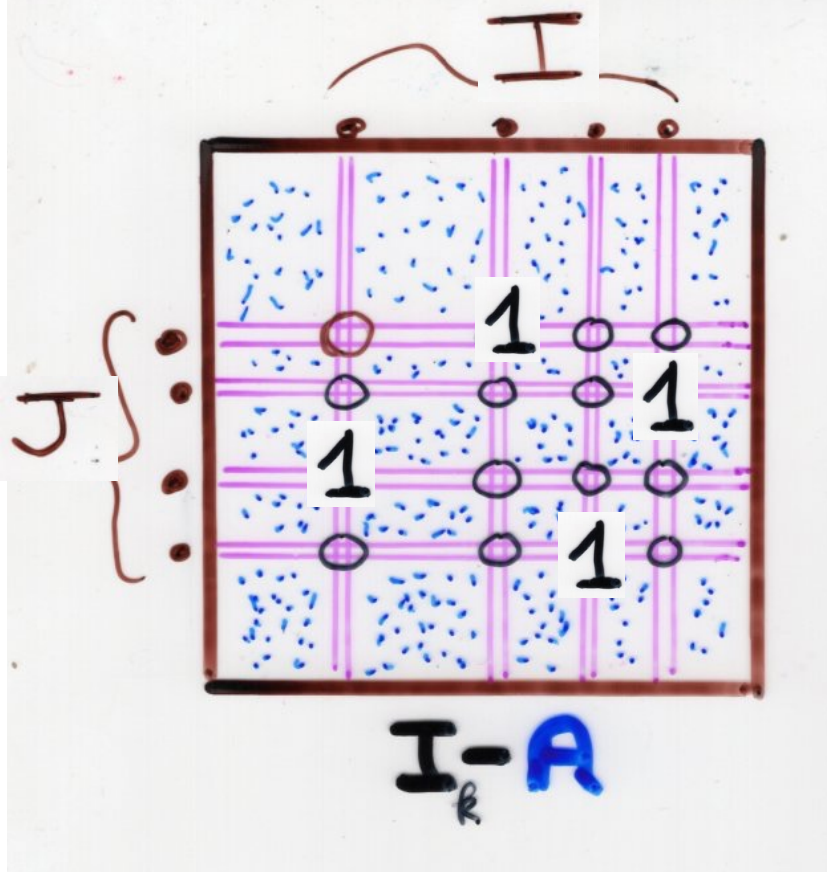
$$\sum_{\sigma \in \mathcal{G}_{I, J}} (-1)^{\text{Inv}(\sigma)}$$

set of bijections  
 $I \rightarrow J$

$$\sum (-1)^r v(\eta_1) \cdots v(\eta_\ell) v(\gamma_1) \cdots v(\gamma_r)$$

$\{\eta_1, \dots, \eta_\ell\}$  self-avoiding  
 $\{\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_r\}$  cycles  
 $\eta_i \text{ is } \rightarrow \sigma(i)$

pair-wise  
disjoint



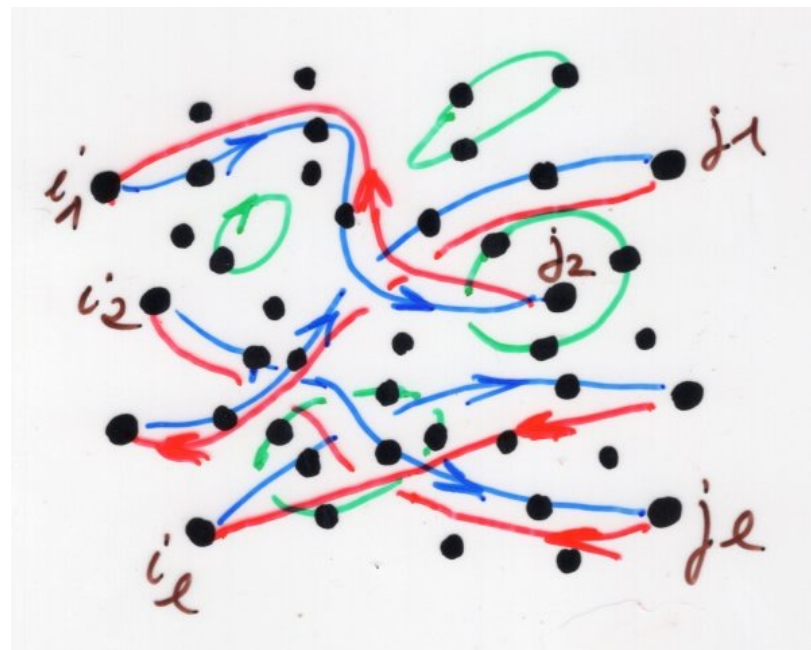
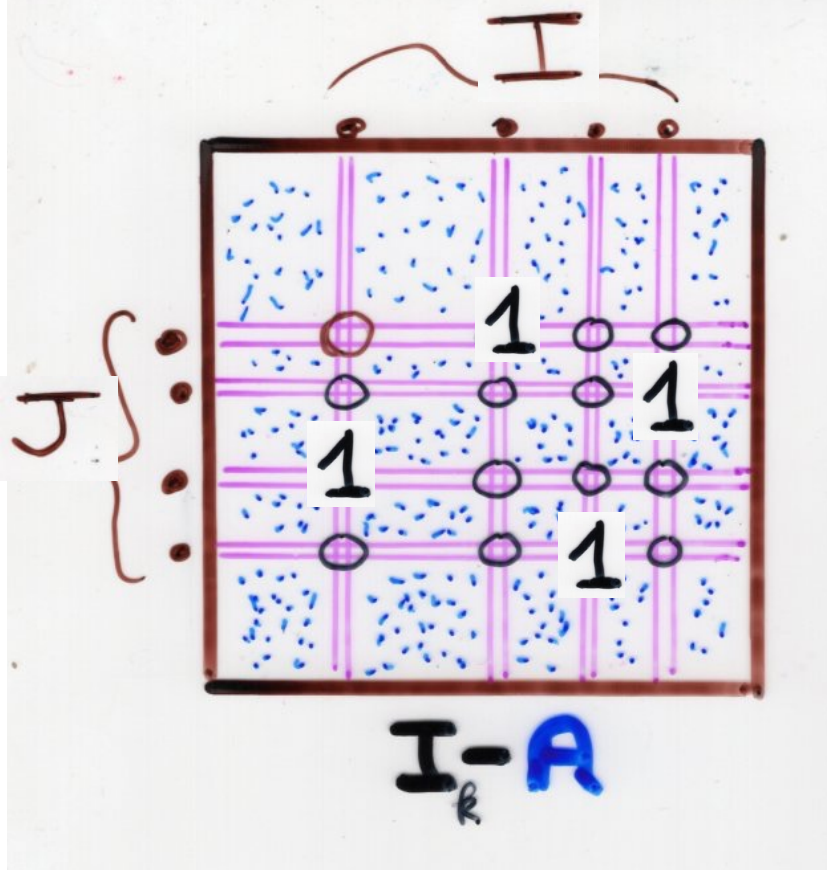
$$(-1)^{\lambda(I) + \lambda(J)} \det \left( (I - A) \begin{bmatrix} \bar{J} \\ \bar{I} \end{bmatrix} \right)$$

$$N = \sum_{\sigma \in \mathcal{G}_{I, J}} (-1)^{\text{Inv}(\sigma)} \sum_{\{\eta_1, \dots, \eta_l\}} (-1)^r v(\eta_1) \dots v(\eta_l) v(\delta_1) \dots v(\delta_r)$$

$\sigma \in \mathcal{G}_{I, J}$   
 set of bijections  $I \rightarrow J$

$\{\eta_1, \dots, \eta_l\}$  self-avoiding  
 $\{\delta_1, \dots, \delta_r\}$  cycles  
 $\eta_i: i \rightarrow \sigma(i)$

pair-wise disjoint



$$(-1)^{\lambda(I) + \lambda(J)} \det \left( (I - A) [\bar{J}, \bar{I}] \right)$$

$$N = \sum_{\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_{J, I}} (-1)^{\text{Inv}(\sigma)} \sum_{\{\eta_1, \dots, \eta_l\}} (-1)^r v(\eta_1) \dots v(\eta_l) v(\delta_1) \dots v(\delta_r)$$

$\{\eta_1, \dots, \eta_l\}$  self-avoiding  
 $\{\delta_1, \dots, \delta_r\}$  cycles  
 $\eta_i: i \in J \mapsto \sigma(i) \in I$

pair-wise disjoint

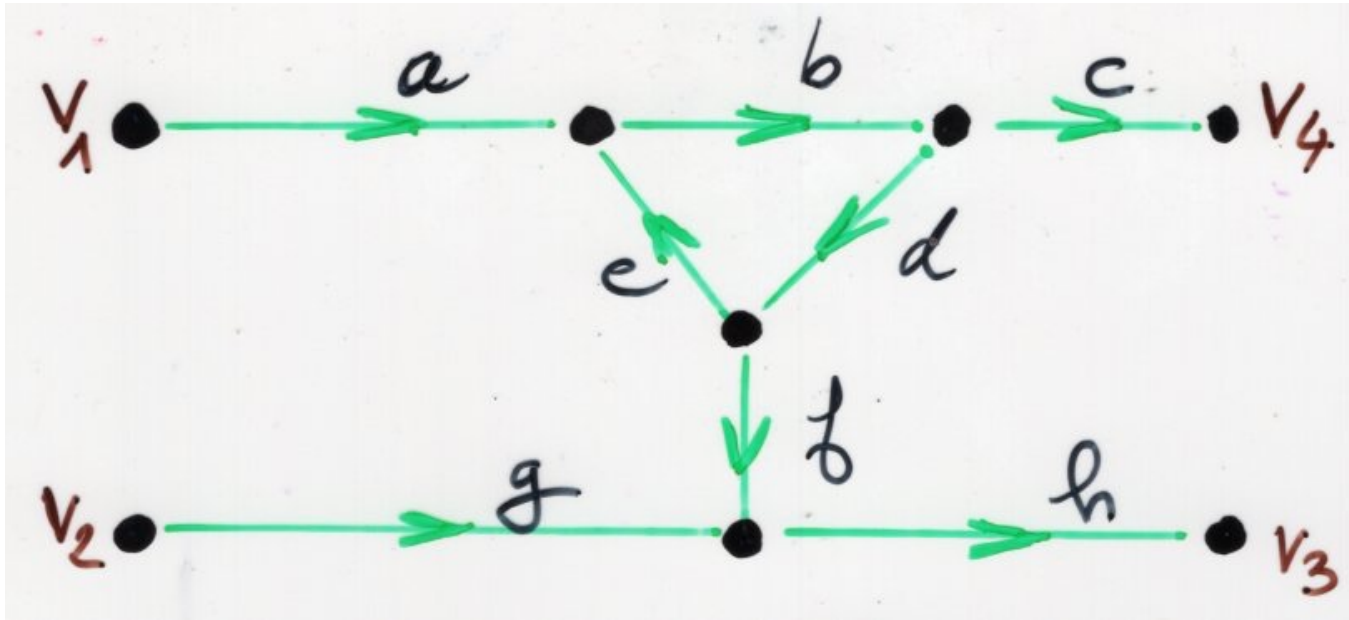


$$\det \left( (1-A)^{-1} [I, J] \right) = \frac{N}{D}$$

Jacobi duality

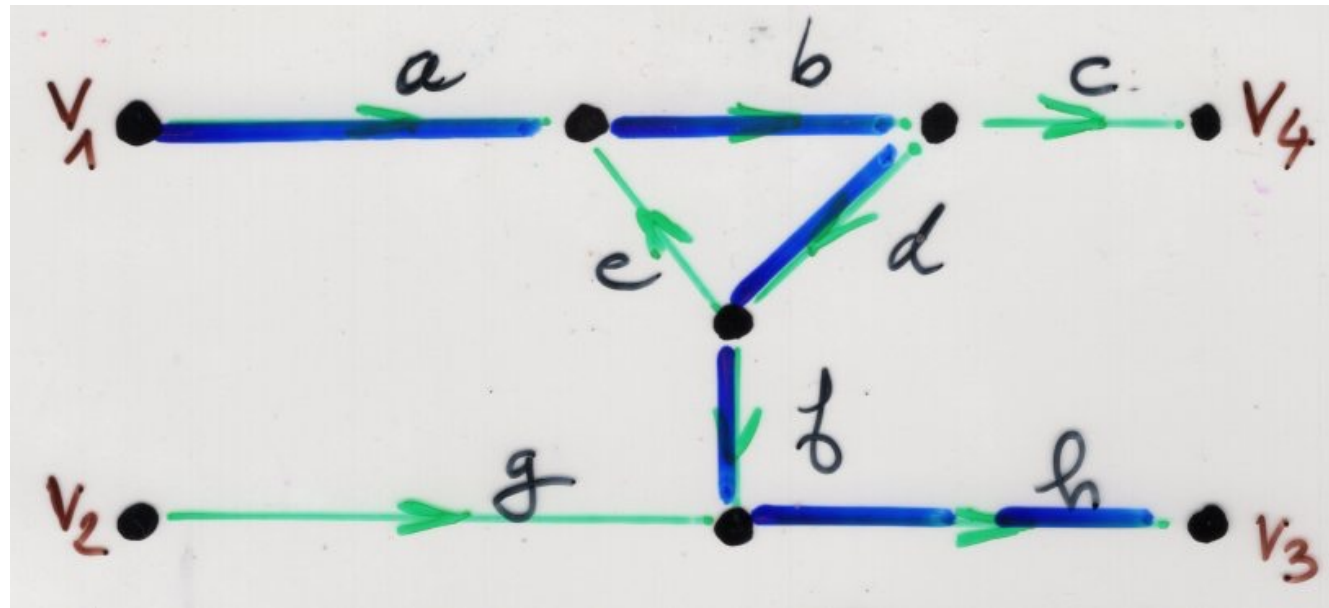
$$= \frac{(-1)^{\lambda(I) + \lambda(J)} \det \left( (1-A) [J, I] \right)}{\det (1-A)}$$

example



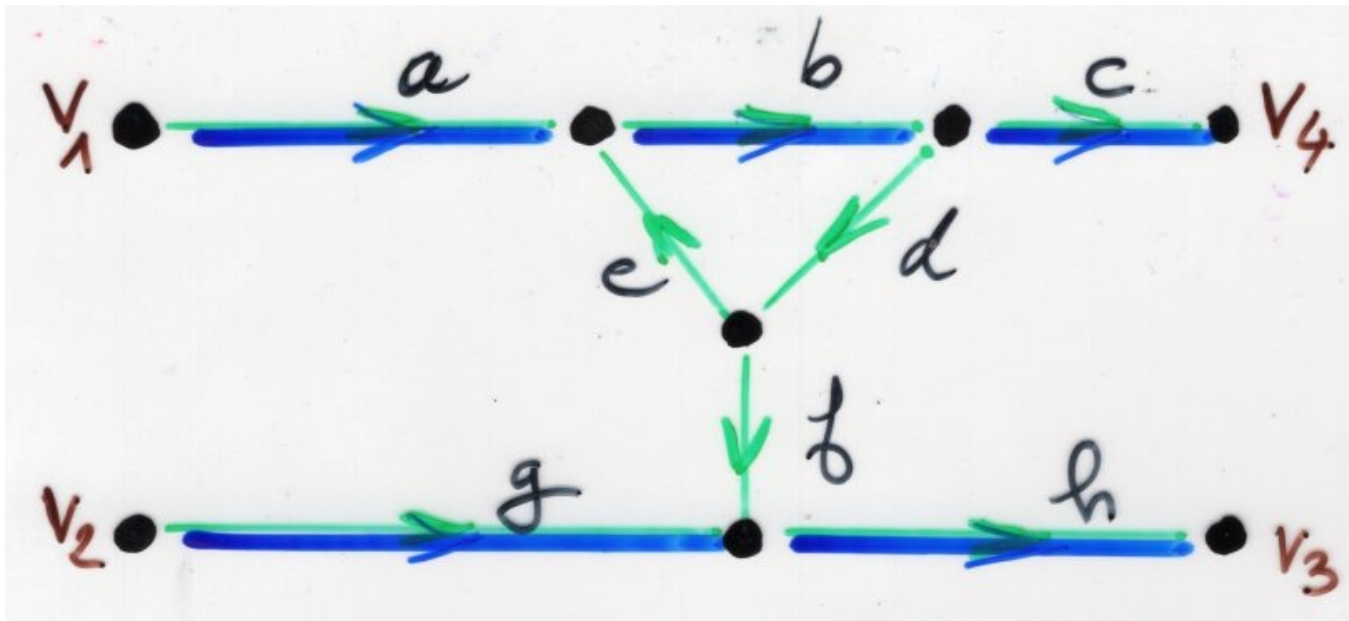
$$(I - A)^{-1} [I, J] = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{abdfh}{1 - bde} & \frac{abc}{1 - bde} \\ gh & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$I = \{1, 2\}$   
 $J = \{3, 4\}$



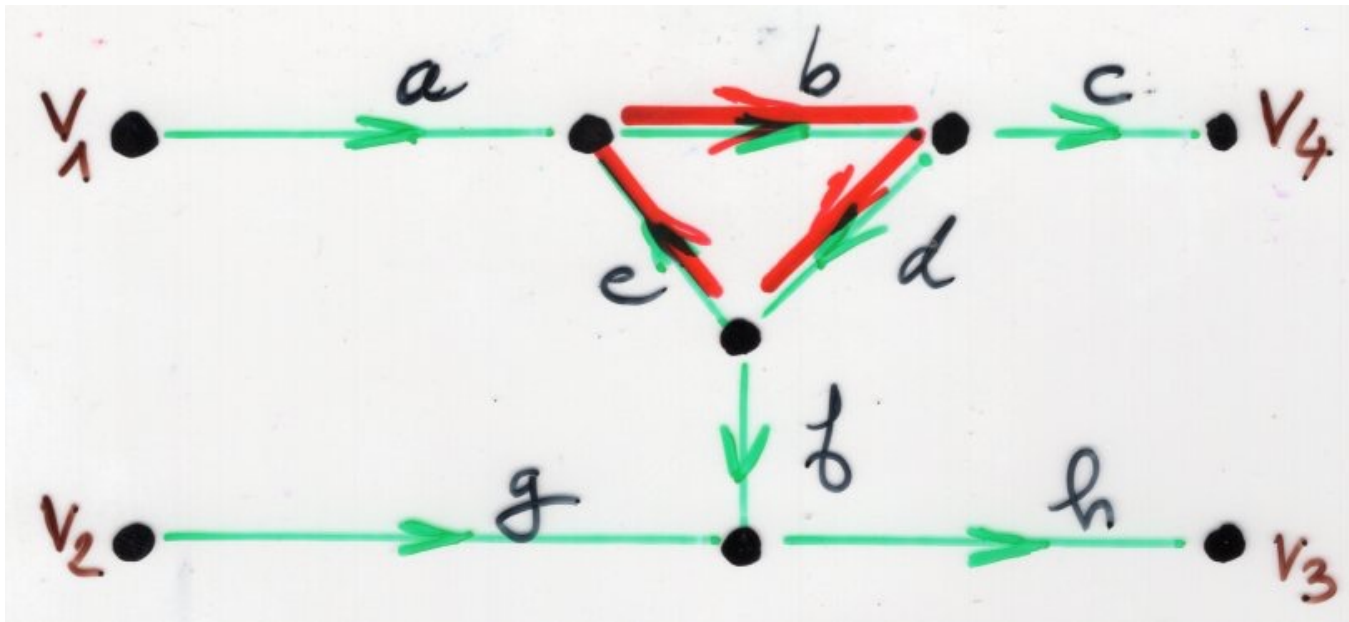
$$(\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{A})^{-1} [\mathbf{I}, \mathbf{J}] = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{abdfh}{1-bde} & \frac{abc}{1-bde} \\ gh & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$\mathbf{I} = \{1, 2\}$   
 $\mathbf{J} = \{3, 4\}$

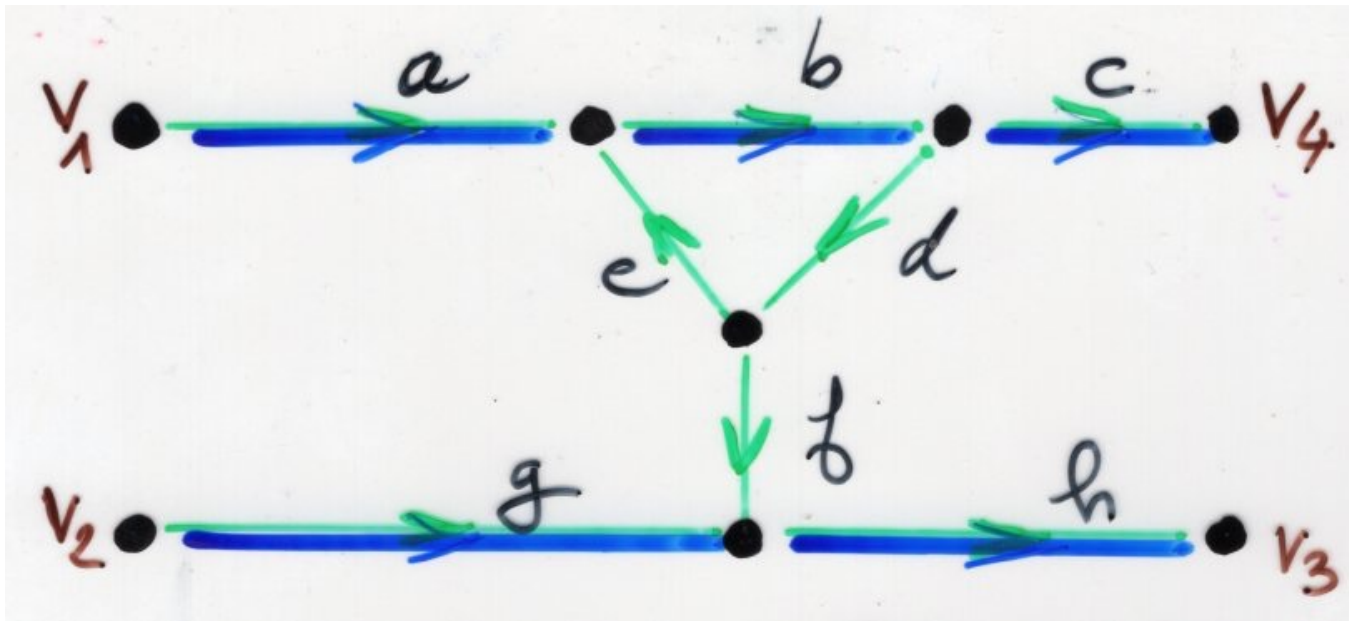


$$(\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{A})^{-1} [\mathbf{I}, \mathbf{J}] = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{abdfh}{1-bde} & \frac{abc}{1-bde} \\ gh & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$\mathbf{I} = \{1, 2\}$   
 $\mathbf{J} = \{3, 4\}$



$$\begin{aligned}
 (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{A})^{-1} [\mathbf{I}, \mathbf{J}] &= \begin{bmatrix} \frac{abdfh}{1-bde} & \frac{abc}{1-bde} \\ gh & 0 \end{bmatrix} \\
 \mathbf{I} &= \{1, 2\} \\
 \mathbf{J} &= \{3, 4\}
 \end{aligned}$$



$$\det\left((I-A)^{-1}[I,J]\right) = \frac{-abcgh}{1-bde}$$

special case 2

acyclic graph:  
**no** cycles

$$\det \left( (1 - A)^{-1} [I, J] \right) =$$

$$\sum (-1)^{\text{Inv}(\sigma)}$$

$$\sigma \in \mathcal{G}_{I, J}$$

set of bijections  
 $I \rightarrow J$

$$\sum$$

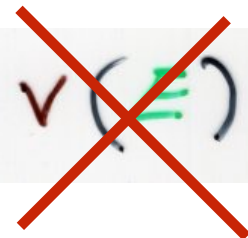
$$\eta_1: i_1 \rightsquigarrow \sigma(i_1)$$

$$\vdots$$

$$\eta_l: i_l \rightsquigarrow \sigma(i_l)$$

self-avoiding  
paths

$$v(\eta_1) \cdots v(\eta_l) v(\underline{E})$$



pair-wise  
disjoint



# The LGV Lemma

(from the course 2016, Ch 5a)

non-intersecting  
configuration  
of paths

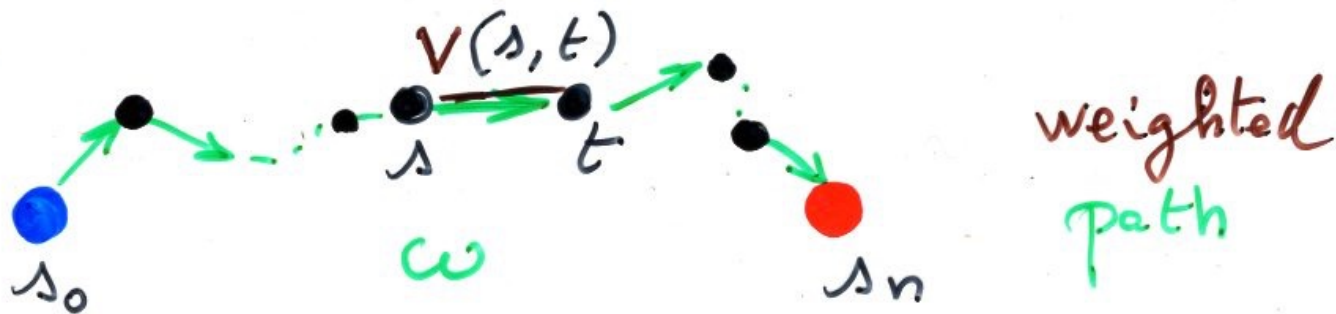
determinant

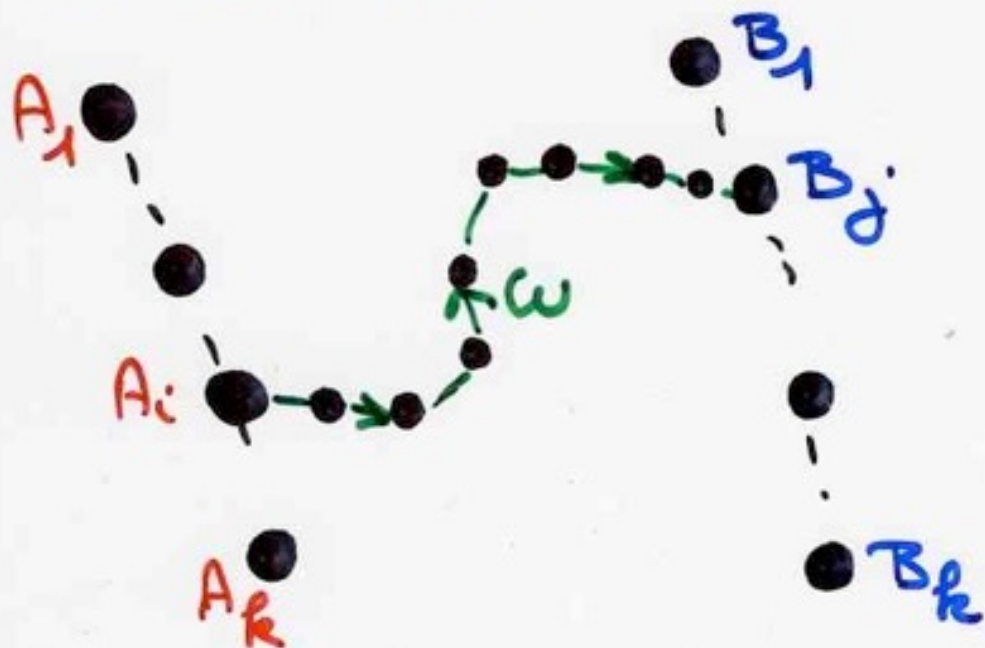
Path  $\omega = (s_0, s_1, \dots, s_n)$   $s_i \in S$

notation  $\omega$   
 $s_0 \rightsquigarrow s_n$

valuation  $v: S \times S \rightarrow \mathbb{K}$  commutative ring

$$v(\omega) = v(s_0, s_1) \dots v(s_{n-1}, s_n)$$





$A_1, \dots, A_k$   
 $B_1, \dots, B_k$

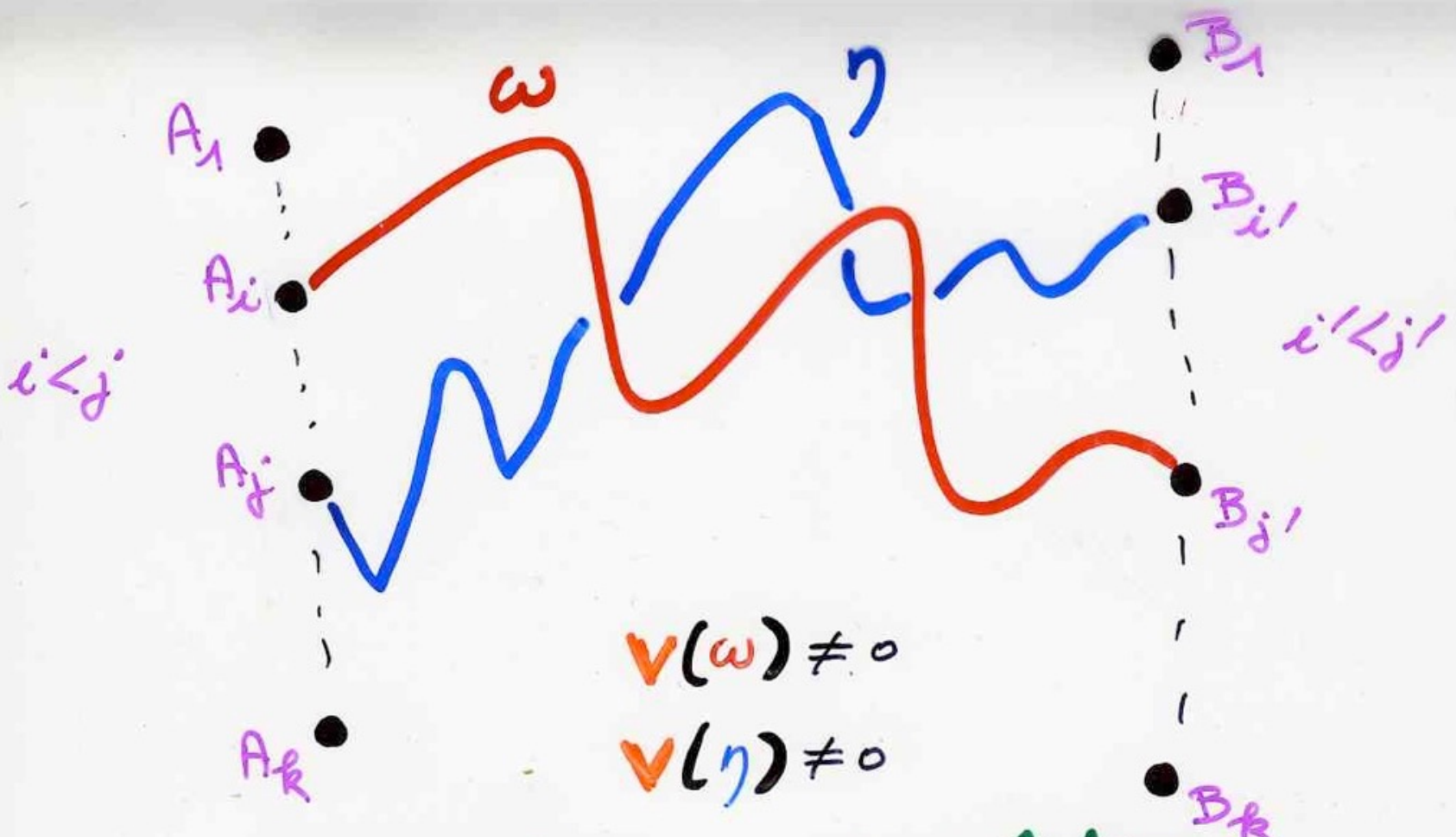
$$a_{ij} = \sum_{A_i \rightsquigarrow B_j} v(\omega)$$

suppose finite sum

$$\det(a_{ij}) = \sum_{(\sigma; \omega_1, \dots, \omega_k)} (-1)^{\text{inv}(\sigma)} v(\omega_1) \dots v(\omega_k)$$

$\omega_i : A_i \rightsquigarrow B_{\sigma(i)}$





crossing condition (c)

Proposition

(LGV Lemma)

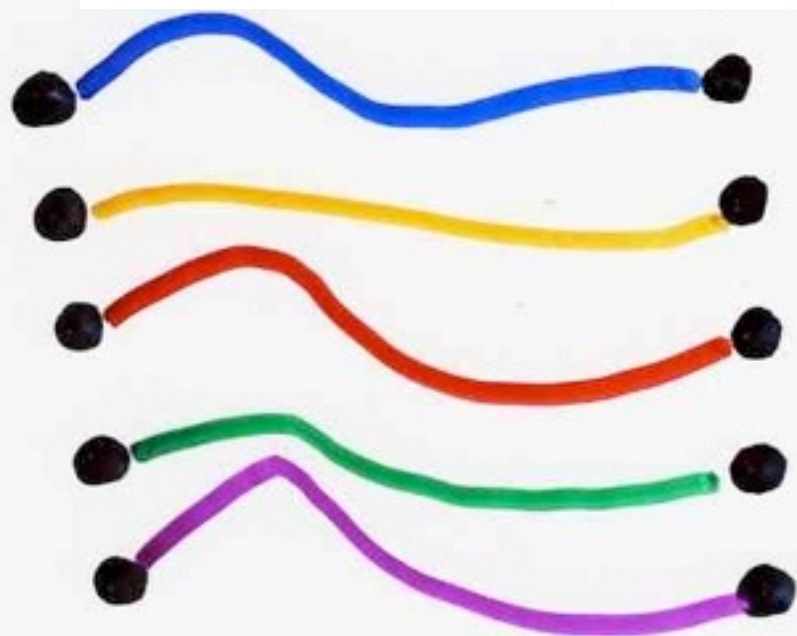
(C)

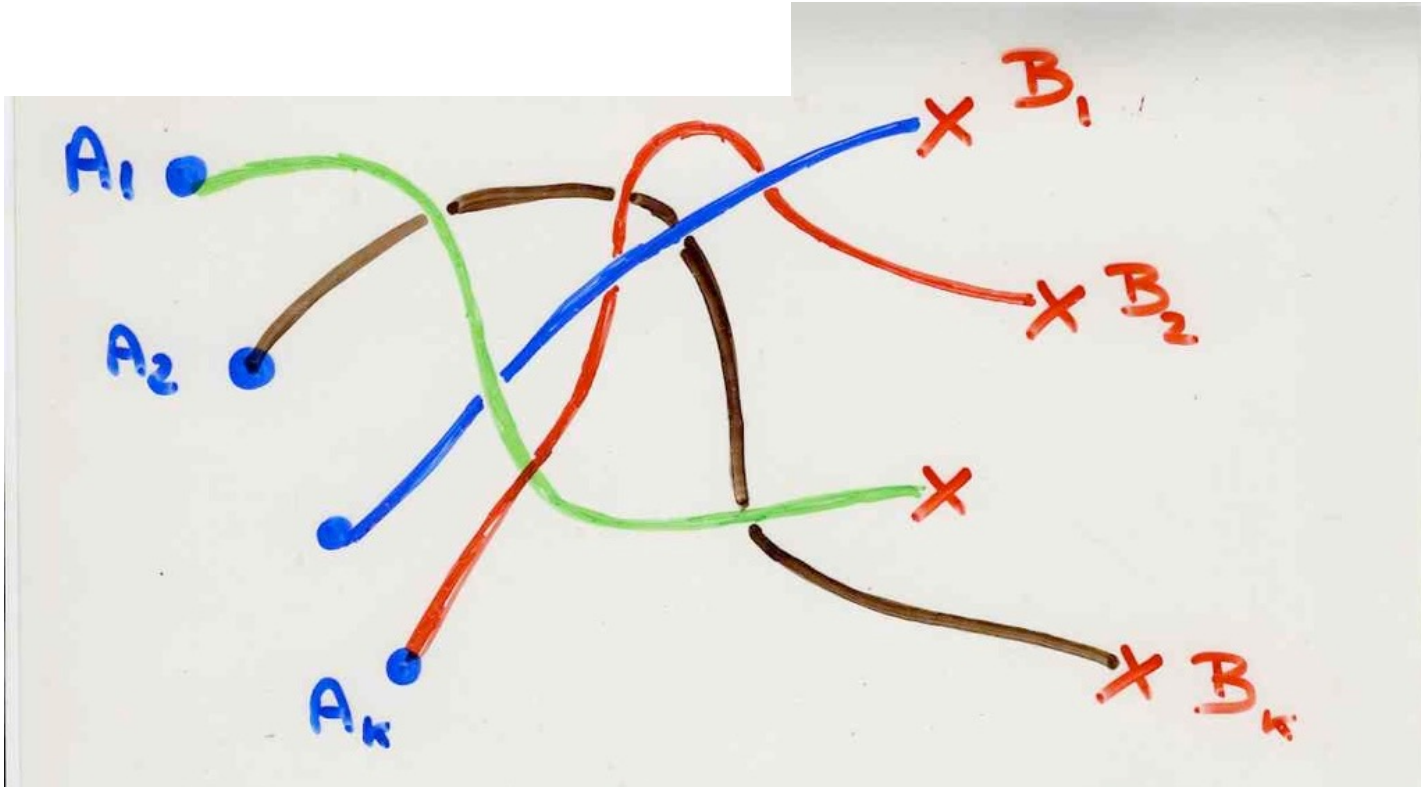
crossing condition

$$\det(a_{ij}) = \sum_{(\omega_1, \dots, \omega_k)} v(\omega_1) \dots v(\omega_k)$$

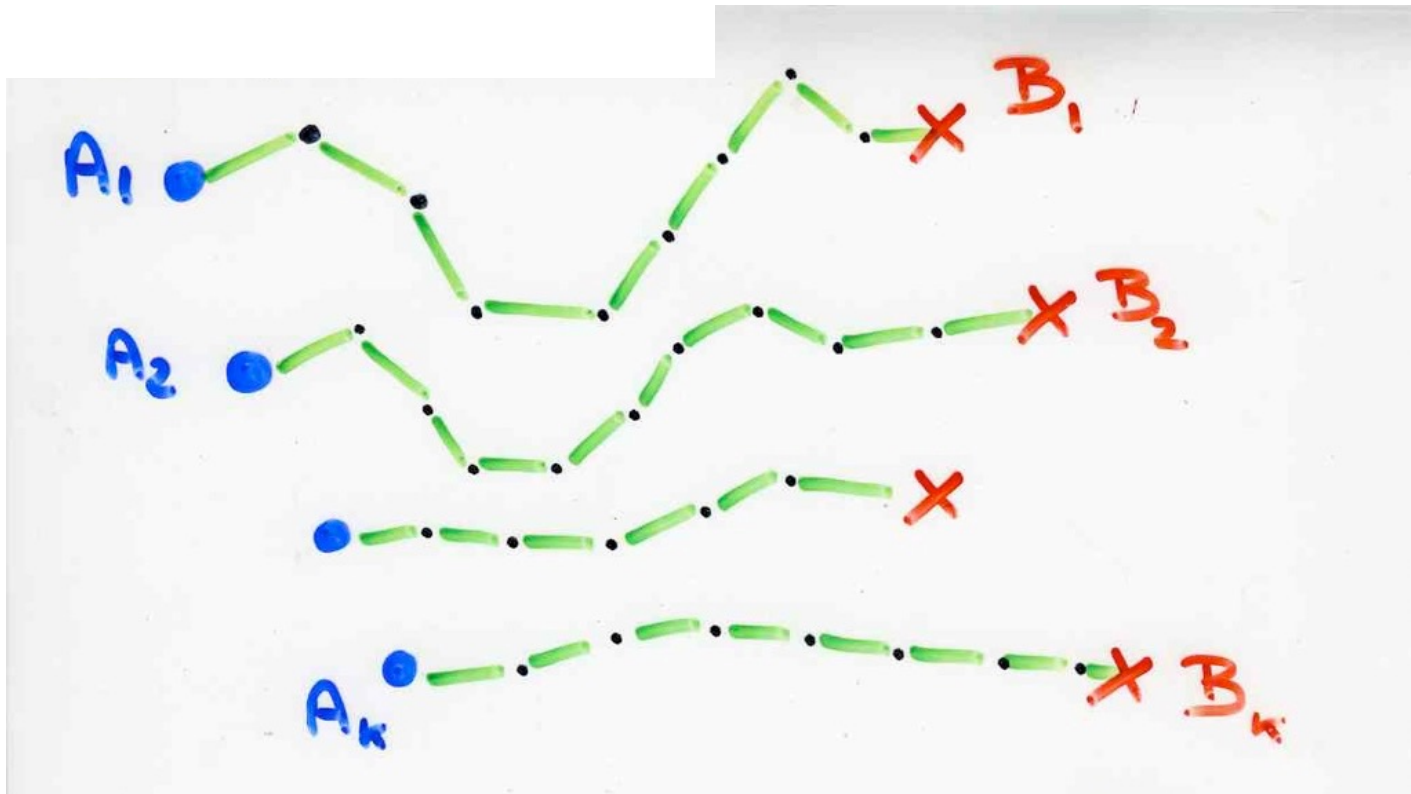
$$\omega_i : A_i \rightsquigarrow B_i$$

non-intersecting

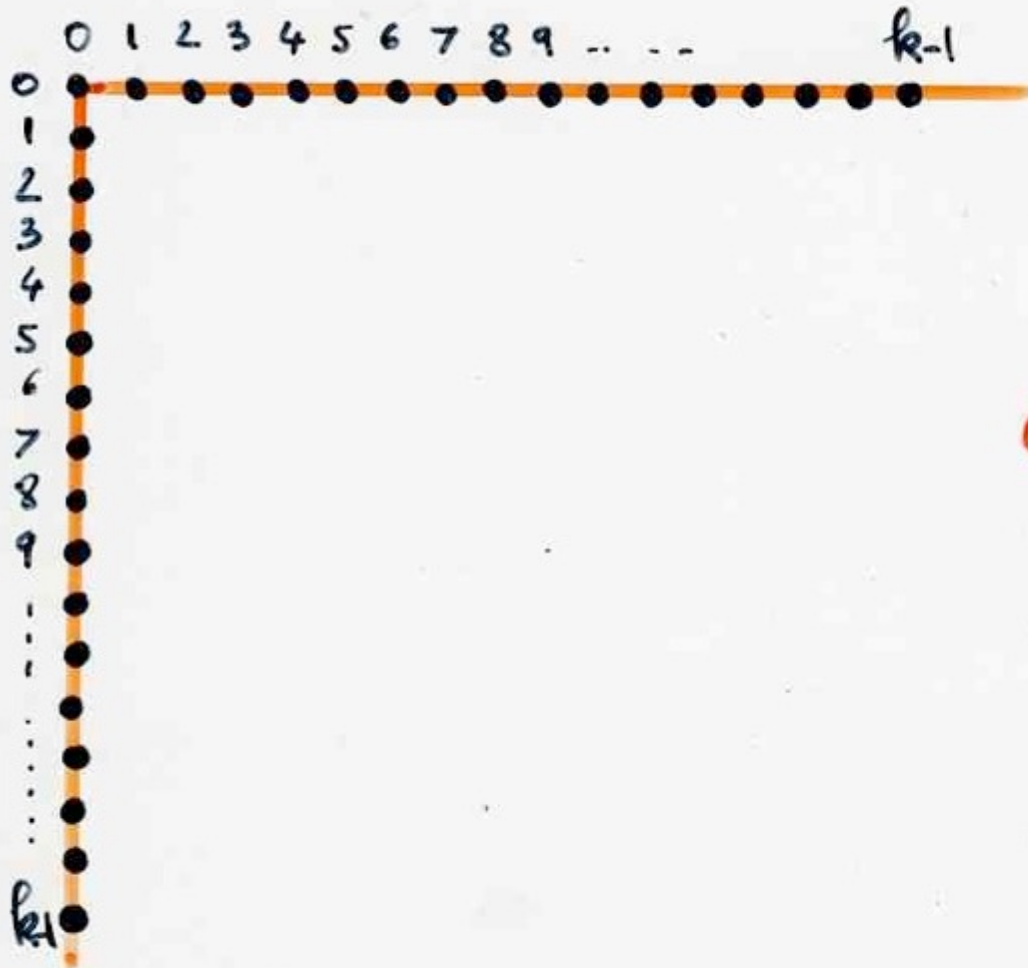








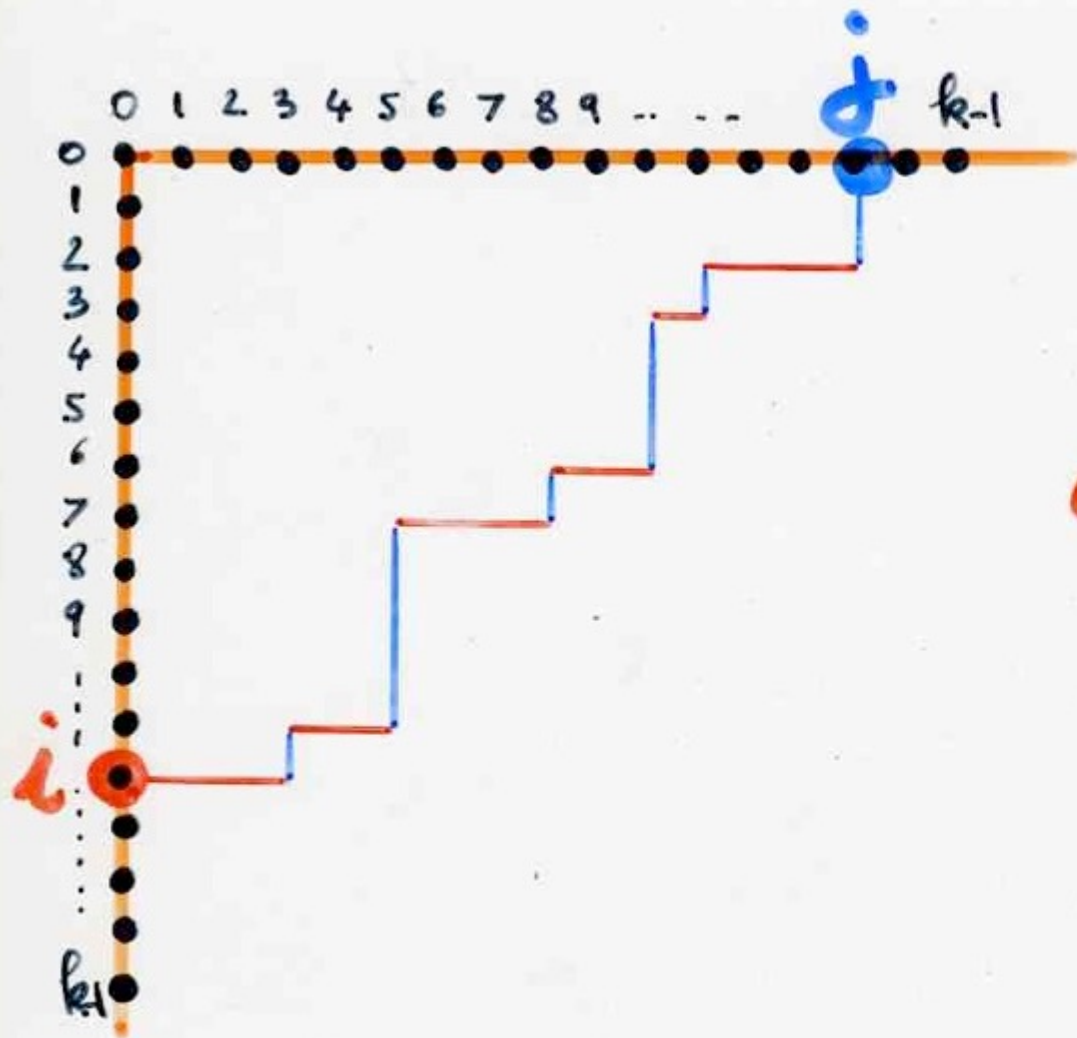
a simple example



*det*  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & \dots \\ 1 & 3 & 6 & 10 & \dots & \dots \\ 1 & 4 & 10 & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ 1 & 5 & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ 1 & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \end{bmatrix} =$

$\binom{i+j}{i}$

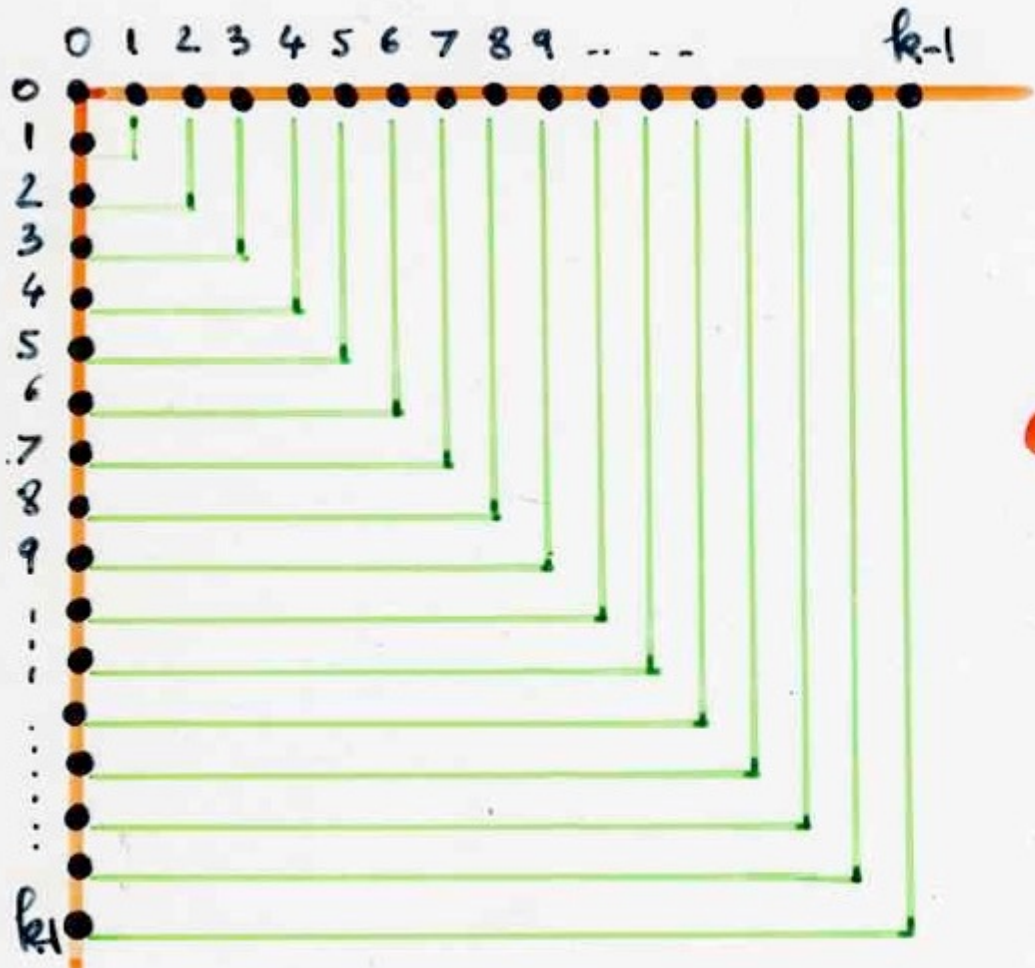
$k \times k$



det

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & \dots & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & \dots & j \\ 1 & 3 & 6 & 10 & \dots & \dots & j+1 \\ 1 & 4 & 10 & \dots & \dots & \dots & j+2 \\ 1 & 5 & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & j+3 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \end{bmatrix} =$$

$k \times k$



$\det \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & \dots \\ 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & \dots \\ 1 & 3 & 6 & 10 & \dots & \dots \\ 1 & 4 & 10 & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ 1 & 5 & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ 1 & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \end{bmatrix} = 1$

$\binom{i+j}{i}$

$k \times k$

another example

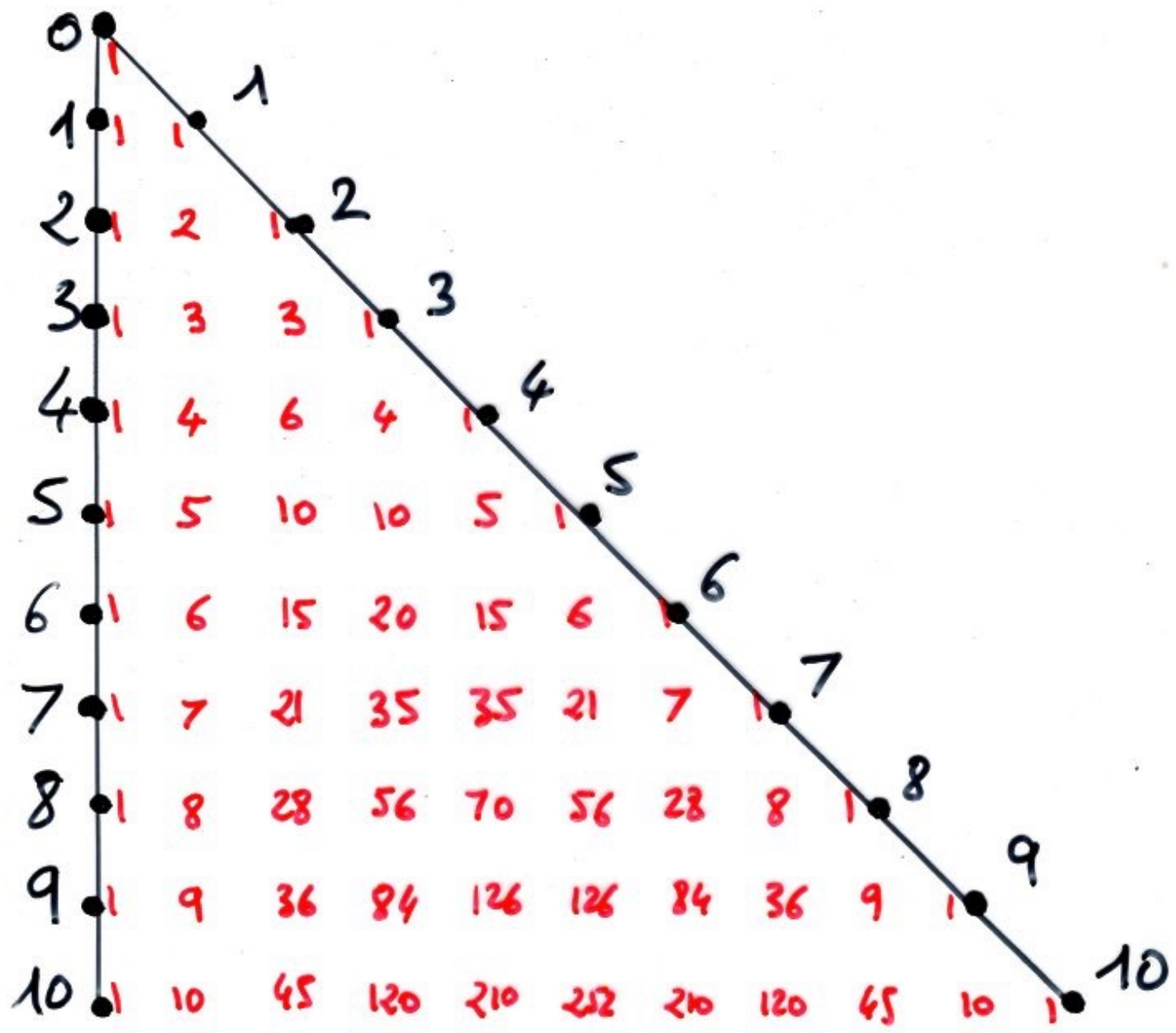
Binomial determinants

$$0 \leq a_1 < \dots < a_k$$

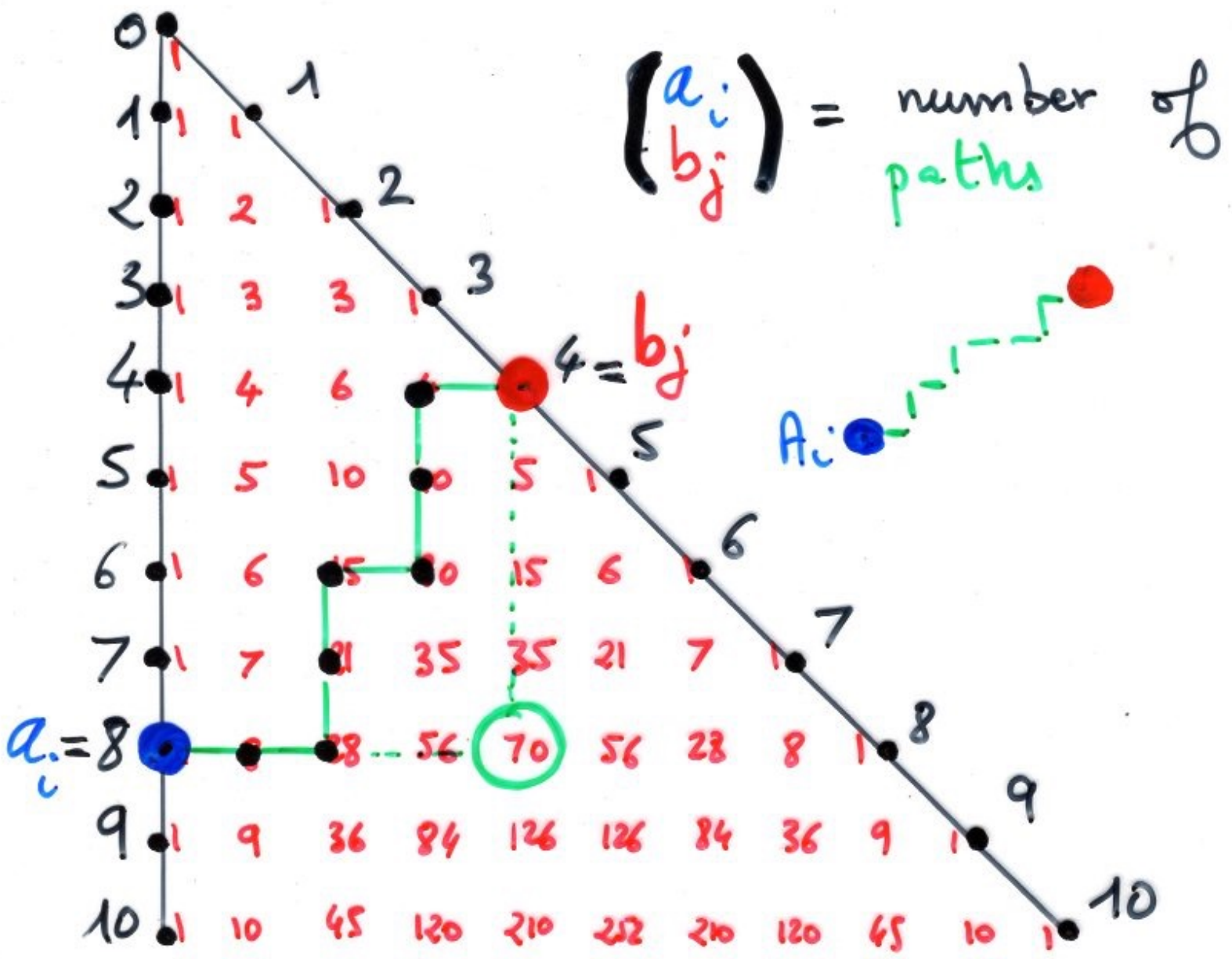
$$0 \leq b_1 < \dots < b_k$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} a_1, \dots, a_k \\ b_1, \dots, b_k \end{pmatrix}$$

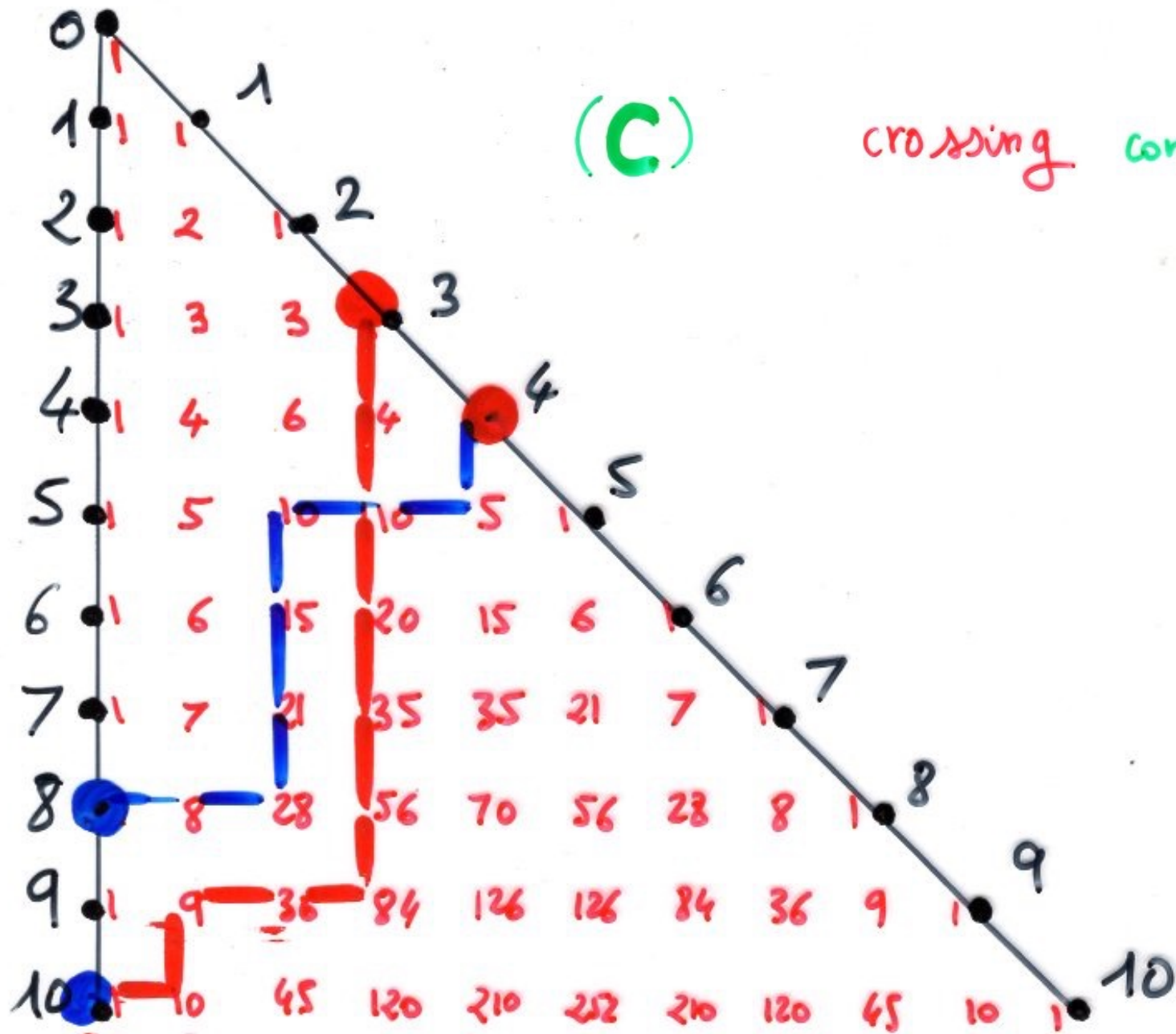
$$= \det \left( \begin{pmatrix} a_i \\ b_j \end{pmatrix} \right)_{1 \leq i \leq k}$$

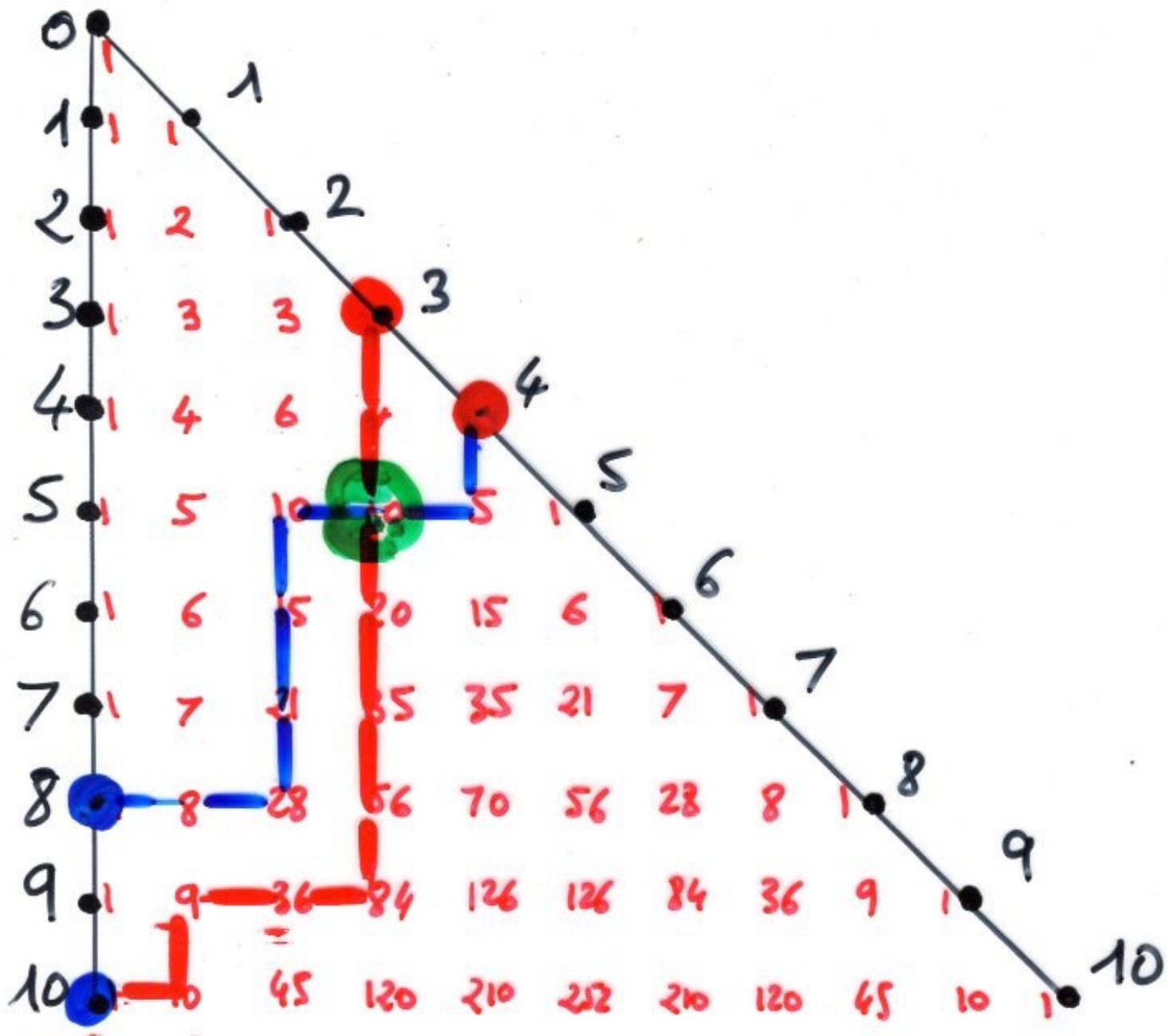












Proposition

The binomial determinant

$$\begin{pmatrix} a_1, \dots, a_k \\ b_1, \dots, b_k \end{pmatrix}$$

is the number of

configurations

of non-intersecting

paths

$$(w_1, \dots, w_k),$$

$$w_i: A_i \rightsquigarrow B_j,$$

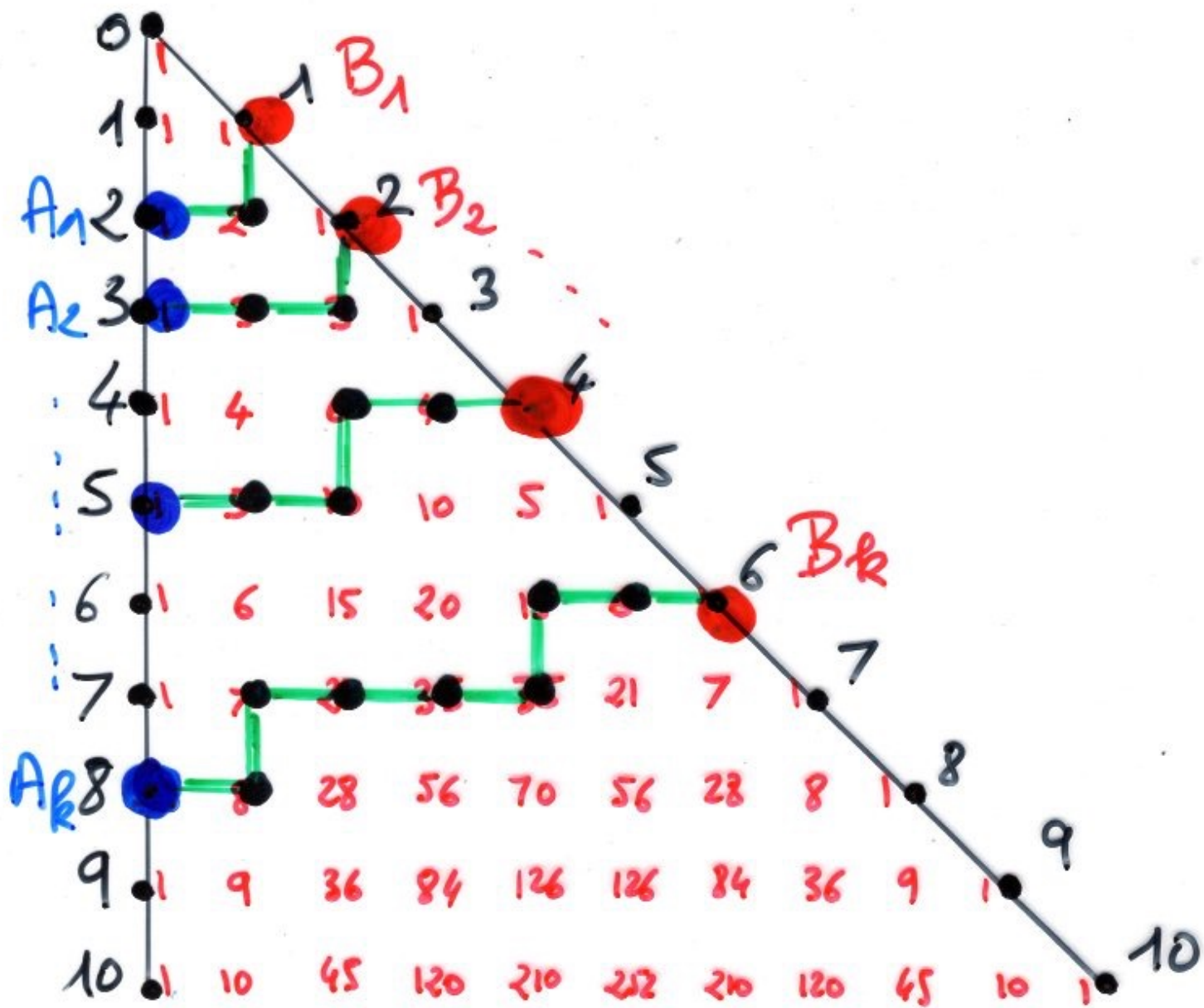
$$A_i = (0, a_i),$$

$$B_j = (b_j, b_j)$$

with elementary

steps







# plane partitions

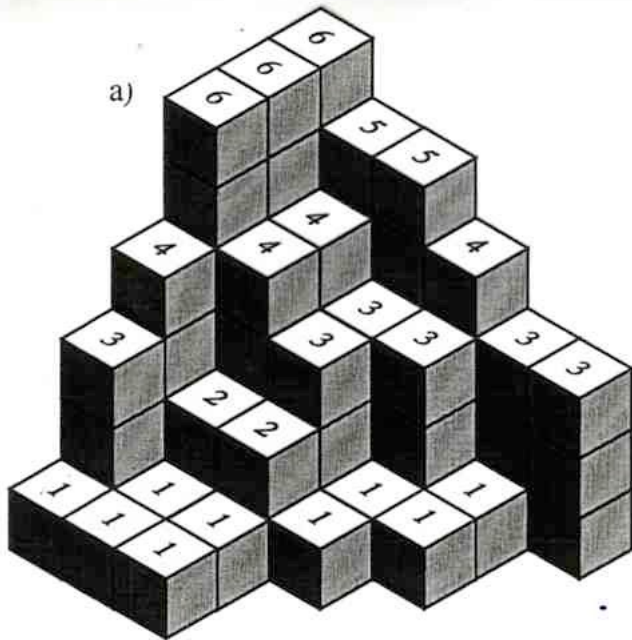


$$1 \leq i \leq a$$

$$1 \leq j \leq b$$

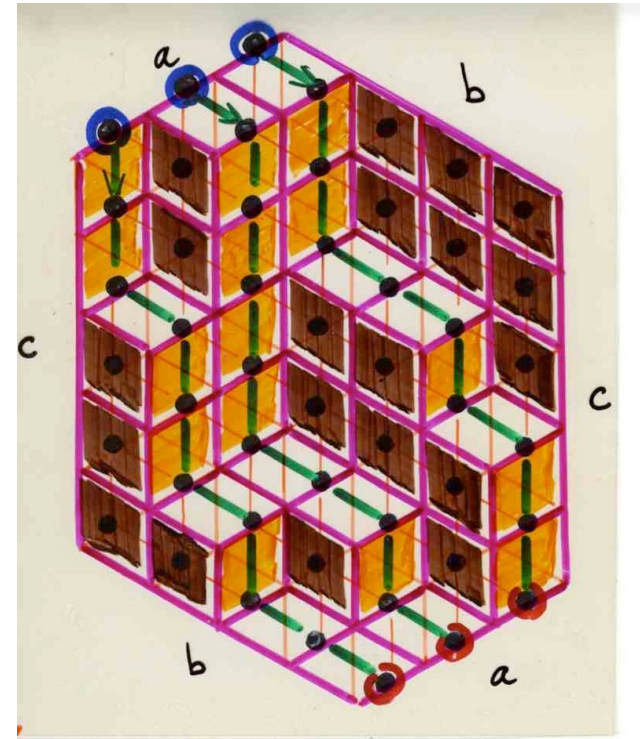
$$1 \leq k \leq c$$

$$\frac{i+j+k-1}{i+j+k-2}$$



b)

6	5	5	4	3	3
6	4	3	3	1	
6	4	3	1	1	
4	2	2	1		
3	1	1			
1	1	1			



proof of LGV Lemma



Proof: Involution  $\phi$

$$E = \left\{ (\sigma; (\omega_1, \dots, \omega_k)); \begin{array}{l} \sigma \in S_n \\ \omega_i: A_i \rightsquigarrow B_{\sigma(i)} \end{array} \right\}$$

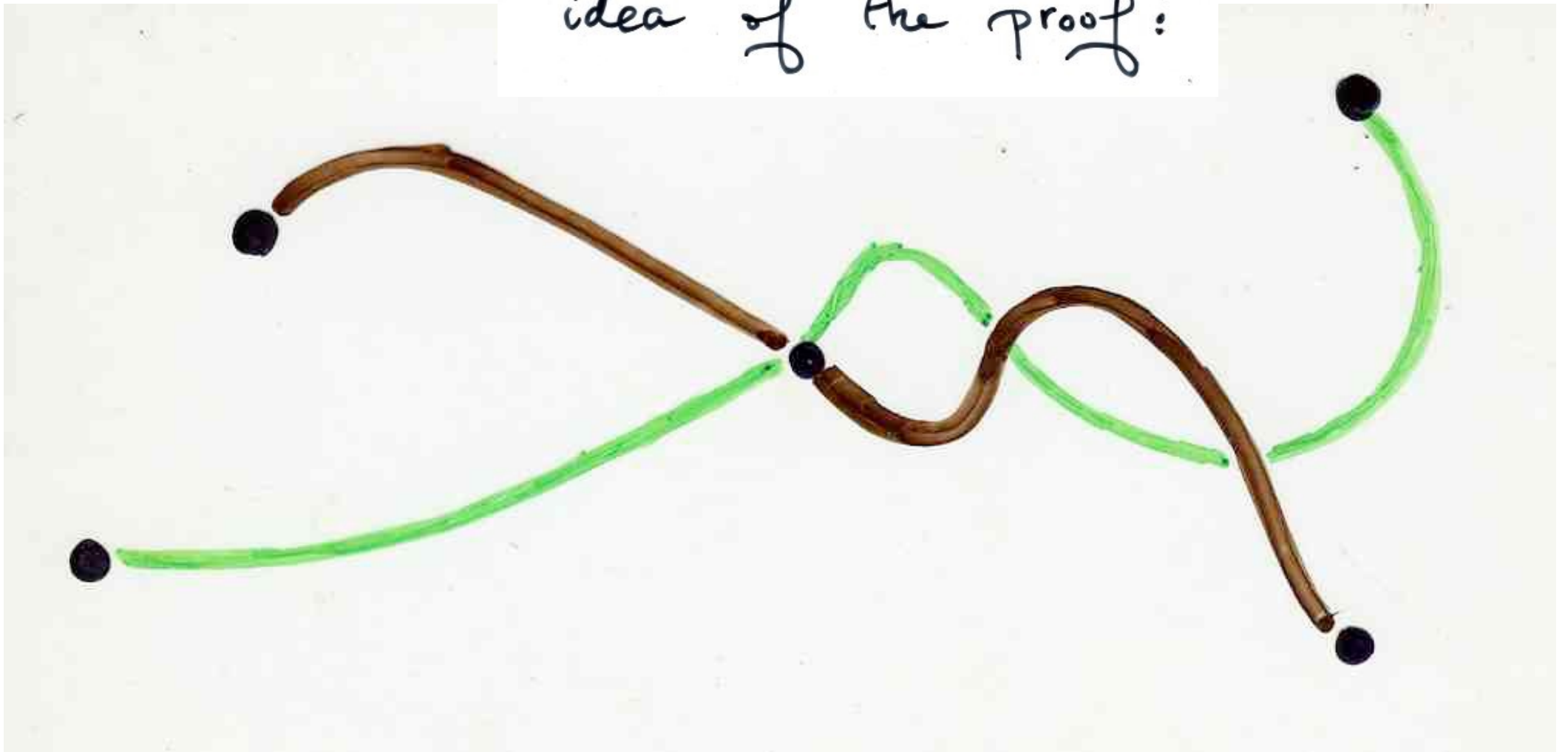
$NC \subseteq E$  non-crossing configurations

$$\phi: (E - NC) \rightarrow (E - NC)$$

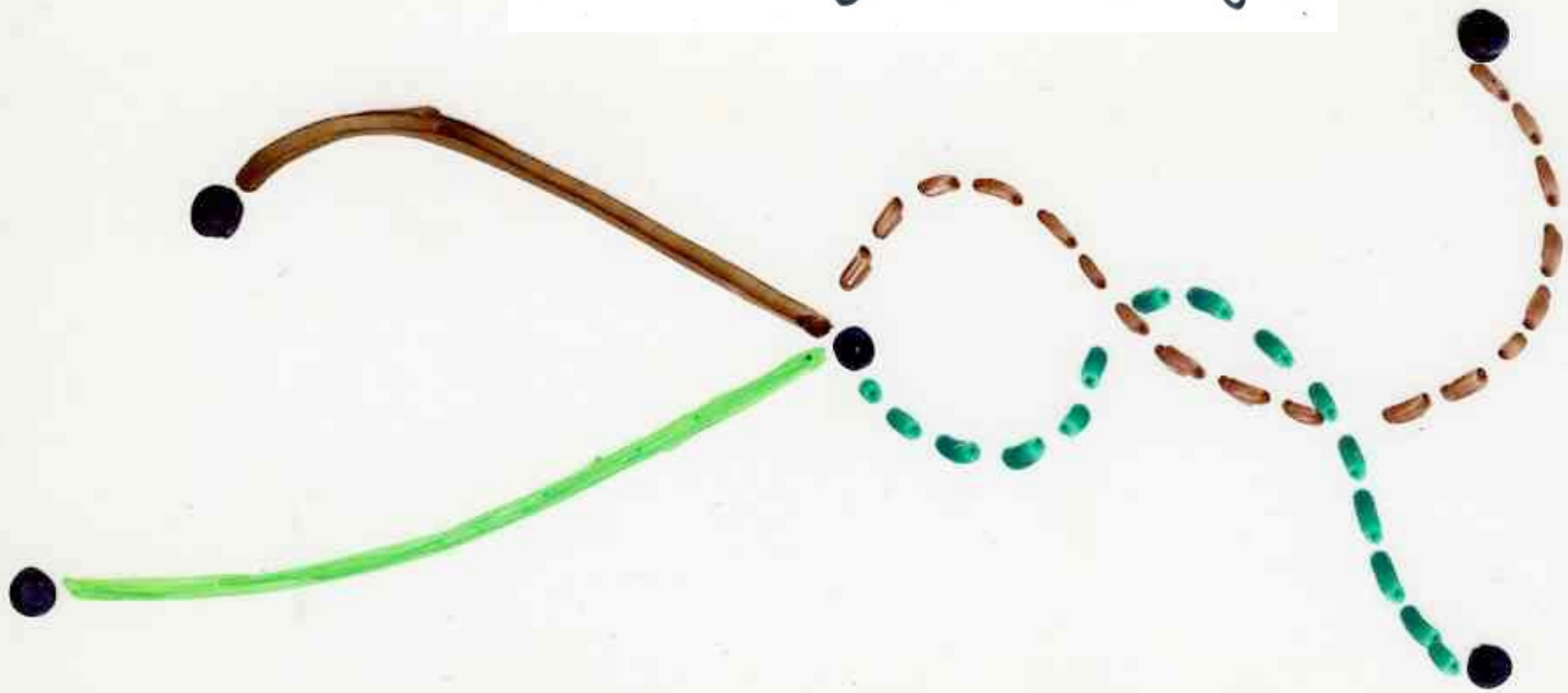
$$\phi(\sigma; (\omega_1, \dots, \omega_k)) = (\sigma'; (\omega'_1, \dots, \omega'_k))$$

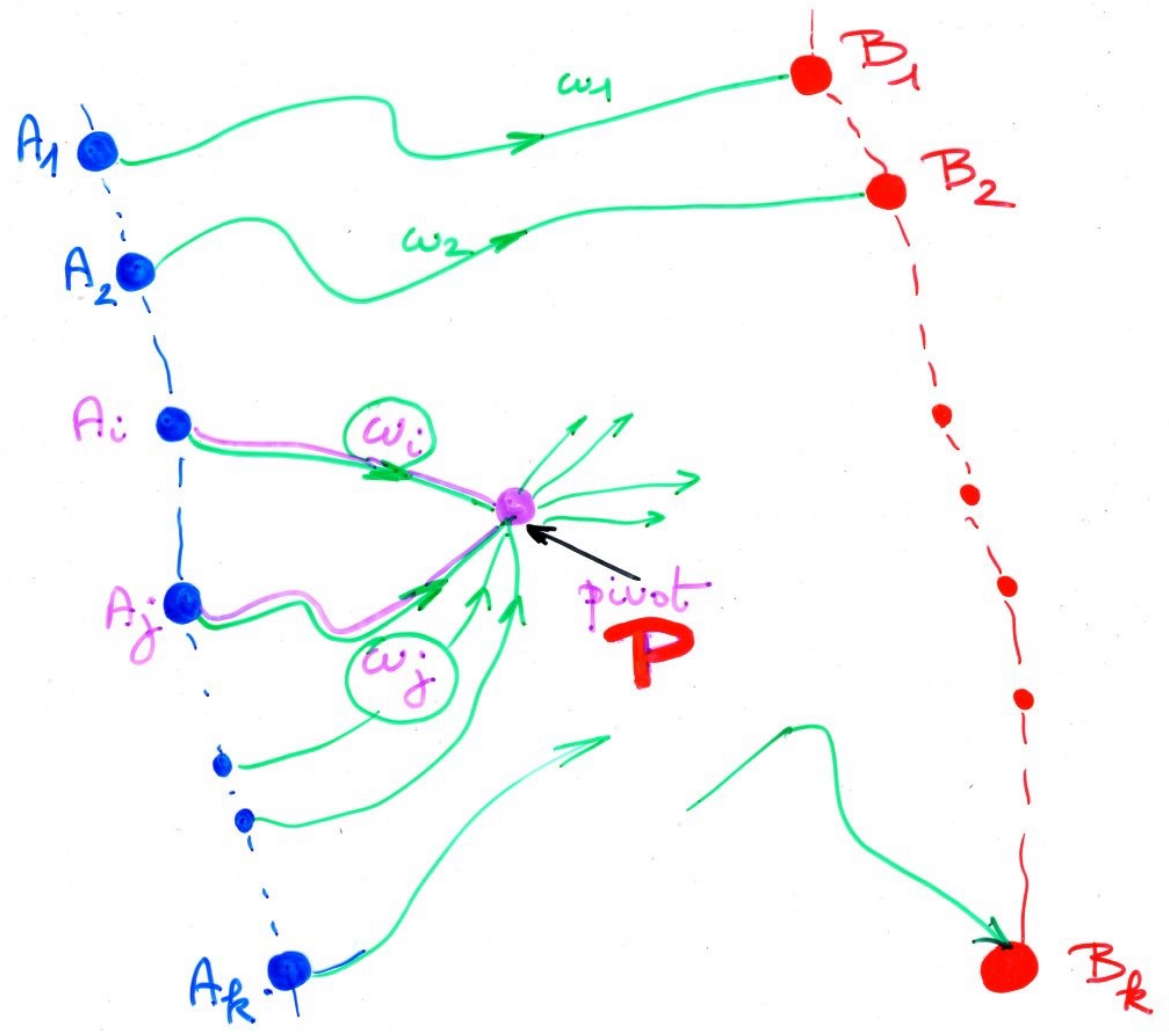
$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} (-1)^{\text{Inv}(\sigma)} = -(-1)^{\text{Inv}(\sigma')} \\ v(\omega_1) \dots v(\omega_k) = v(\omega'_1) \dots v(\omega'_k) \end{array} \right.$$

idea of the proof:



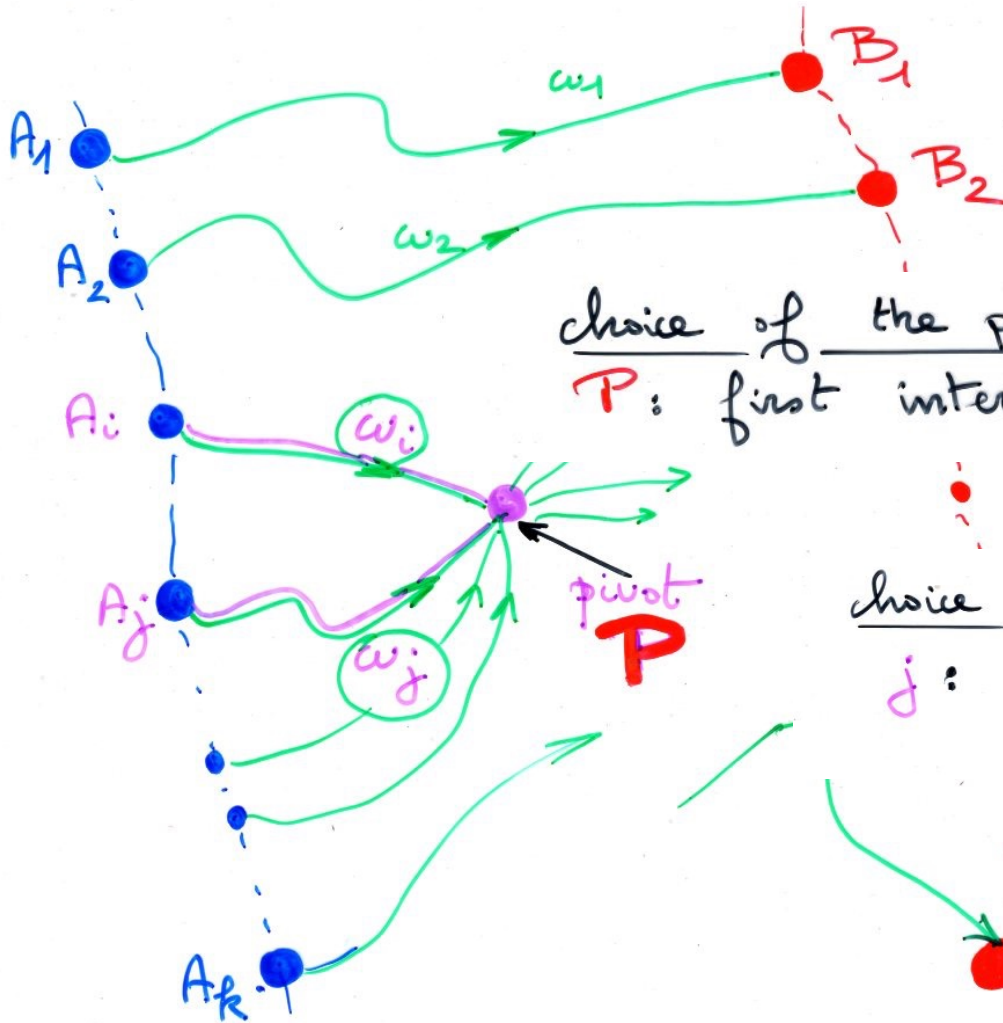
idea of the proof:





choice of  $w_i$

$i$ : smallest  $i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq k$ , such that  $w_i$  has an intersection with another path



choice of the point P

P: first intersection point on the path  $w_i$

choice of  $w_j$

$j$ : smallest  $j$ ,  $i < j \leq k$  such that  $w_j$  intersect  $w_i$

□  
end  
of proof

# LGV Lemma. general form

$$\det(a_{ij}) = \sum_{(\sigma; \omega_1, \dots, \omega_k)} (-1)^{\text{inv}(\sigma)} v(\omega_1) \dots v(\omega_k)$$

$$\omega_i: A_i \rightsquigarrow B_{\sigma(i)}$$

paths non-intersecting

proof of the main theorem

# (main) Theorem

$$\det \left( (1 - A)^{-1} [I, J] \right) =$$

$$\sum (-1)^{\text{Inv}(\sigma)}$$

$$\sigma \in \mathcal{G}_{I, J}$$

set of bijections  
 $I \rightarrow J$

$$\sum$$

$$\eta_1: i_1 \mapsto \sigma(i_1)$$

$$\vdots$$

$$\eta_l: i_l \mapsto \sigma(i_l)$$

self-avoiding  
paths

$$v(\eta_1) \cdots v(\eta_l) v(E)$$

pair-wise  
disjoint

$E$   
heap  
cycles of

projection  
 $\pi(m)$   
maximal piece  
of  $E$   
intersect one  
of the path  $\eta$



$$\det \left( (1-A)^{-1} [I, J] \right)$$

$$= \sum_{\sigma \in \mathcal{G}_{I, J}} (-1)^{\text{Inv}(\sigma)} \sum_{\omega_1, \dots, \omega_l} v(\omega_1) \dots v(\omega_l)$$

$\sigma \in \mathcal{G}_{I, J}$   
 set of bijections  $I \rightarrow J$

$\omega_1: i_1 \rightsquigarrow \sigma(i_1)$   
 $\vdots$   
 $\omega_l: i_l \rightsquigarrow \sigma(i_l)$

$i = 1, \dots, l$

$$\omega_i \xrightarrow{\chi} (\eta_i, E_i)$$

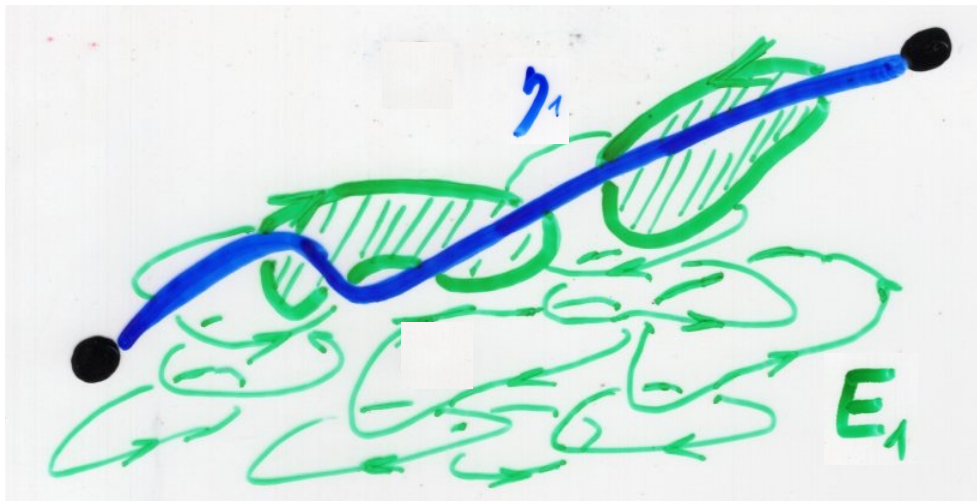
$$= \sum_{\sigma \in \mathcal{G}_{I, J}} (-1)^{\text{Inv}(\sigma)} \sum_{\eta_1, \dots, \eta_l} v(\eta_1) \dots v(\eta_l) v(E_1) \dots v(E_l)$$

$\sigma \in \mathcal{G}_{I, J}$   
 set of bijections  $I \rightarrow J$

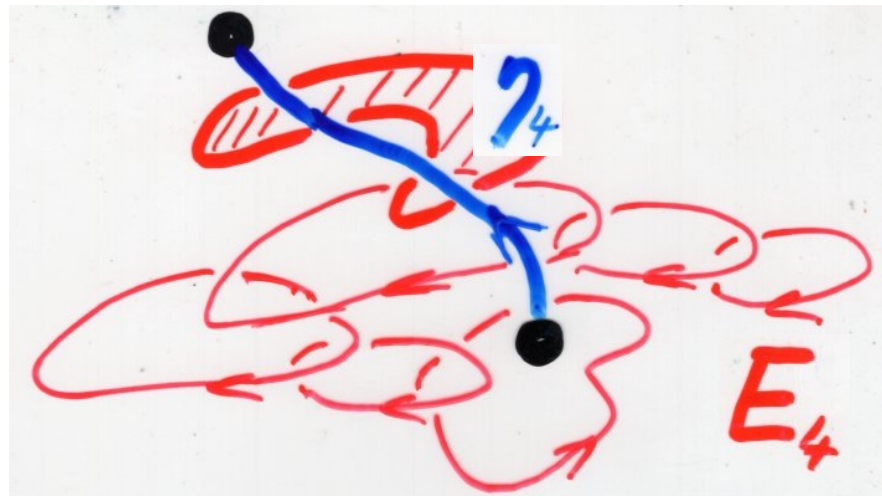
$\eta_1: i_1 \rightsquigarrow \sigma(i_1)$   
 $\vdots$   
 $\eta_l: i_l \rightsquigarrow \sigma(i_l)$   
 self-avoiding paths

$E_1, \dots, E_l$   
 heaps of cycles

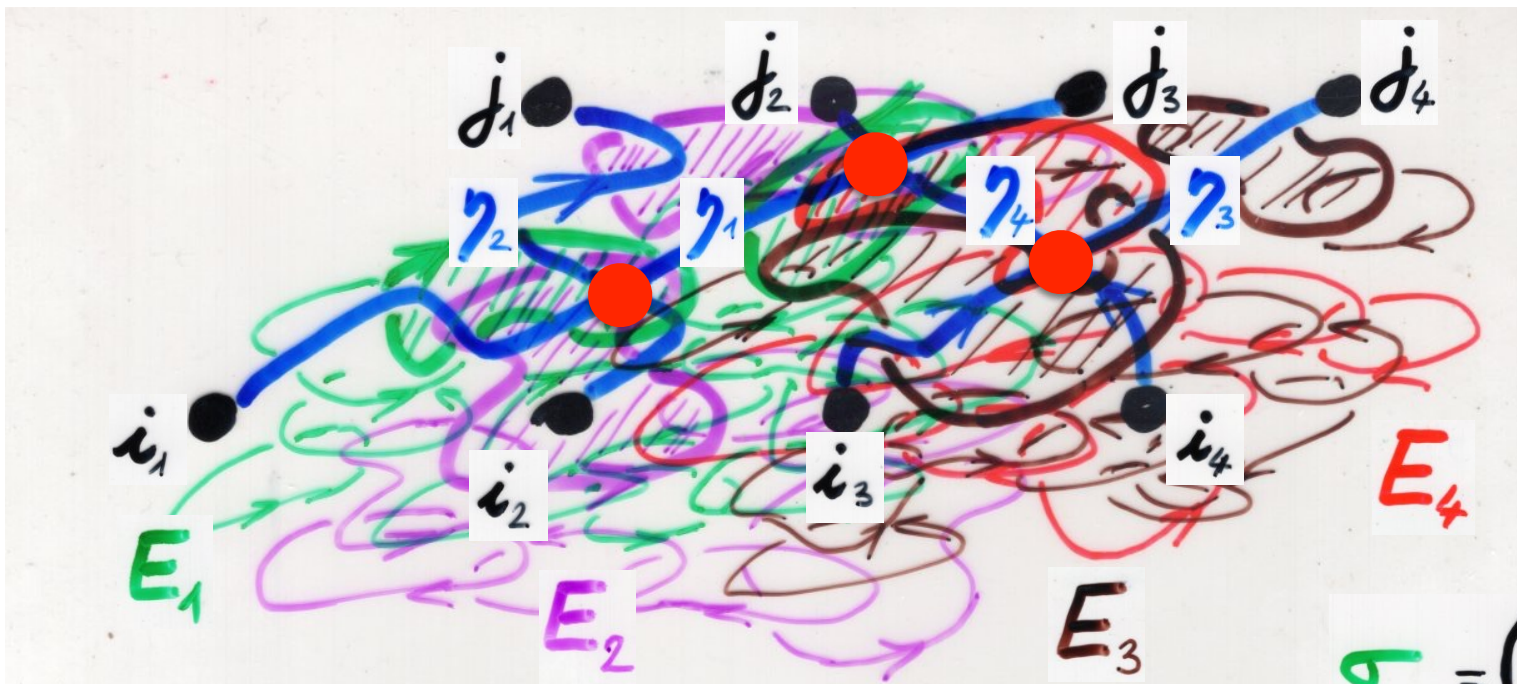
projection  $\Pi(m)$   
 maximal piece of  $E_i$   
 intersect  $\eta_i$   
 $i = 1, \dots, l$



$$\omega_i \xrightarrow{\chi} (\eta_i, E_i)$$







$$\sigma = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 3 & 1 & 4 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\det \left( (1 - A)^{-1} [I, J] \right)$$

$$= \sum_{\sigma \in \mathcal{G}_{I, J}} (-1)^{\text{Inv}(\sigma)}$$

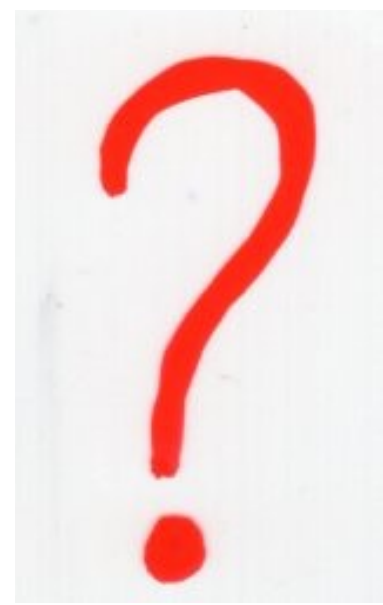
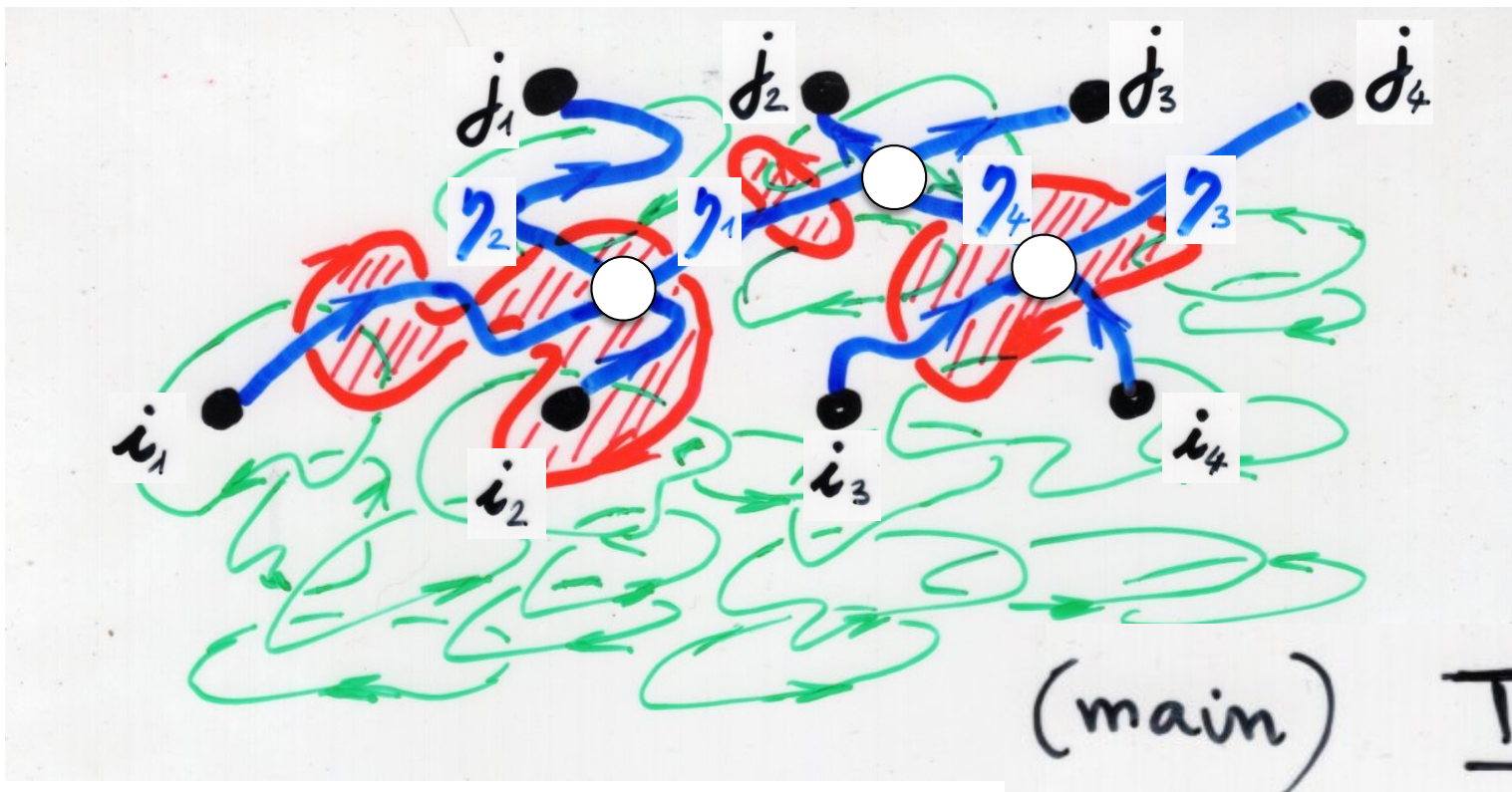
set of bijections  $I \rightarrow J$

$$\sum_{\substack{\eta_1: i_1 \rightarrow \sigma(i_1) \\ \vdots \\ \eta_l: i_l \rightarrow \sigma(i_l)}} v(\eta_1) \dots v(\eta_l) v(E_1) \dots v(E_l)$$

self-avoiding paths

$E_1, \dots, E_l$   
heaps  
of cycles

projection  
 $\pi(m)$   
maximal piece  
of  $E_i$   
intersect  $\eta_i$   
 $i=1, \dots, l$



Theorem

$$= \sum_{\sigma \in \mathcal{G}_{I,J}} (-1)^{\text{Inv}(\sigma)} \sum_{\eta_1: i_1 \rightsquigarrow \sigma(i_1)} \dots (\eta_\ell) v(E)$$

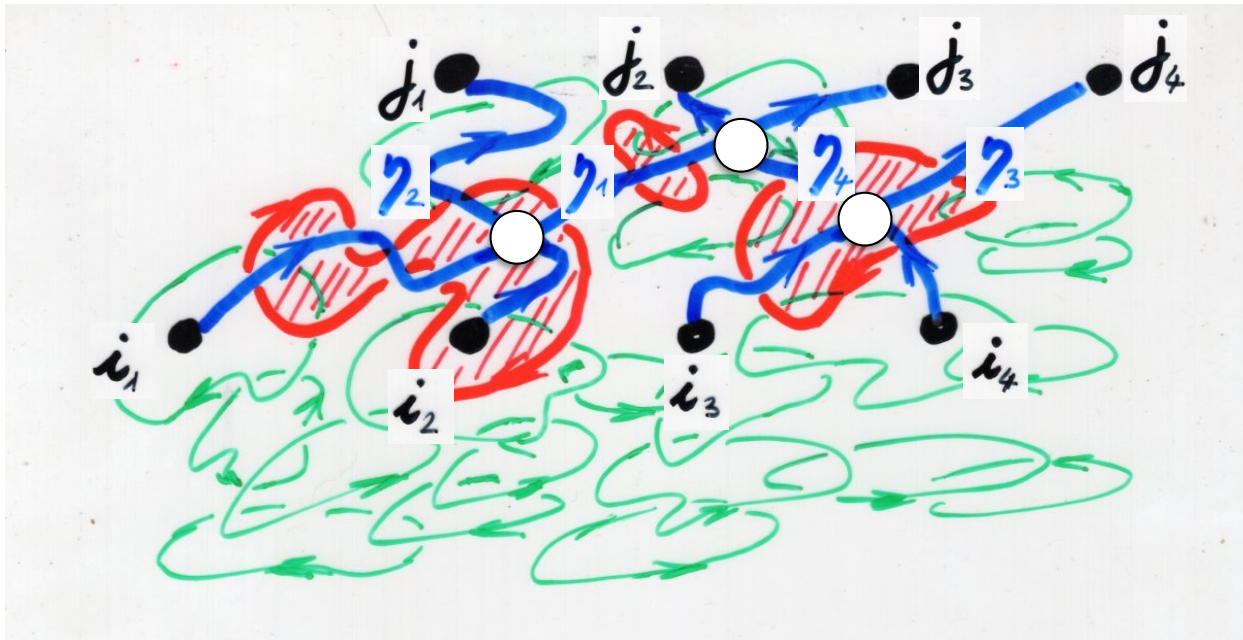
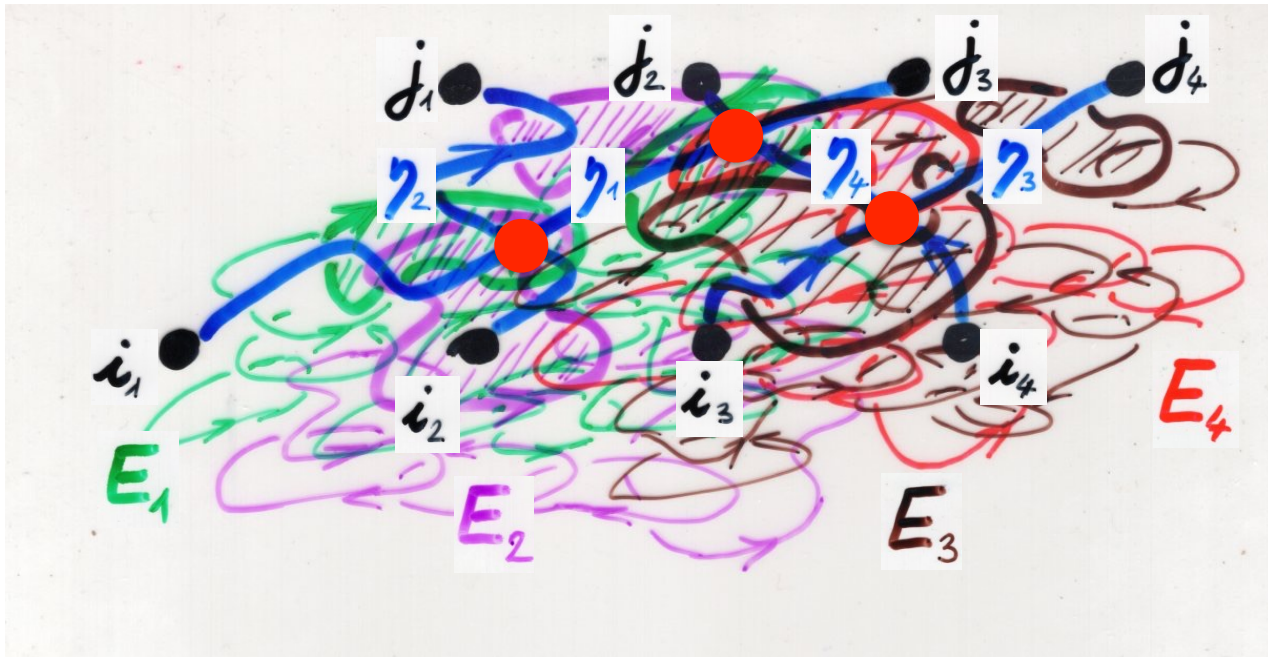
$\sigma \in \mathcal{G}_{I,J}$   
set of bijections  
 $I \rightarrow J$

$\eta_1: i_1 \rightsquigarrow \sigma(i_1)$   
 $\vdots$   
 $\eta_\ell: i_\ell \rightsquigarrow \sigma(i_\ell)$   
self-avoiding paths

$E$  heap of cycles

pair-wise disjoint

projection  
 $\pi(m)$   
maximal piece of  $E$  intersect one of the path  $\eta$





$$\det \left( (1-A)^{-1} [I, J] \right)$$

=

$$\sum_{\sigma \in \mathcal{G}_{I, J}} (-1)^{\text{Inv}(\sigma)}$$

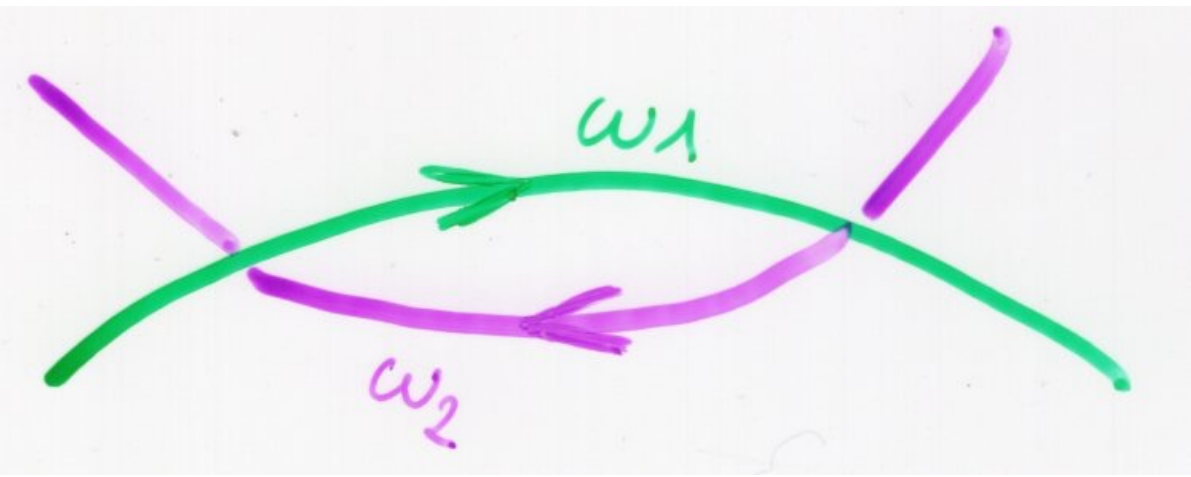
set of bijections  $I \rightarrow J$

$$\sum \prod_{i=1}^l (\omega_i)$$

$\omega_1: i_1 \mapsto \sigma(i_1)$   
 $\vdots$   
 $\omega_l: i_l \mapsto \sigma(i_l)$

$i = 1, \dots, l$

involution  $\varphi$



Lalonde (1987, 1990)



proof of the main theorem

first step: Fomin theorem

$$\det \left( (1-A)^{-1} [I, J] \right)$$

=

$$\sum_{\sigma \in \mathcal{G}_{I, J}} (-1)^{\text{Inv}(\sigma)}$$

set of bijections  $I \rightarrow J$

$$\sum \prod_{i=1}^l (\omega_i)$$

$\omega_1: i_1 \rightsquigarrow \sigma(i_1)$   
 $\vdots$   
 $\omega_l: i_l \rightsquigarrow \sigma(i_l)$

$i = 1, \dots, l$

$$\omega_i \xrightarrow{\chi} (\eta_i, E_i)$$

$$\eta_i = \text{LE}(\omega_i)$$

loop-erased

# Proposition

$$\sum_{\sigma \in \mathcal{G}_{I,J}} (-1)^{\text{Inv}(\sigma)}$$

$$\sigma \in \mathcal{G}_{I,J}$$

set of bijections  
 $I \rightarrow J$

$$\sum \vee(\omega_1) \cdots \vee(\omega_l)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \omega_1: i_1 &\mapsto \sigma(i_1) \\ &\vdots \\ \omega_l: i_l &\mapsto \sigma(i_l) \end{aligned}$$

$$i = 1, \dots, l$$

=

$$\sum_{\sigma \in \mathcal{G}_{I,J}} (-1)^{\text{Inv}(\sigma)}$$

$$\sigma \in \mathcal{G}_{I,J}$$

set of bijections  
 $I \rightarrow J$

$$\sum \vee(\omega_1) \cdots \vee(\omega_l)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \omega_1: i_1 &\mapsto \sigma(i_1) \\ &\vdots \\ \omega_l: i_l &\mapsto \sigma(i_l) \end{aligned}$$

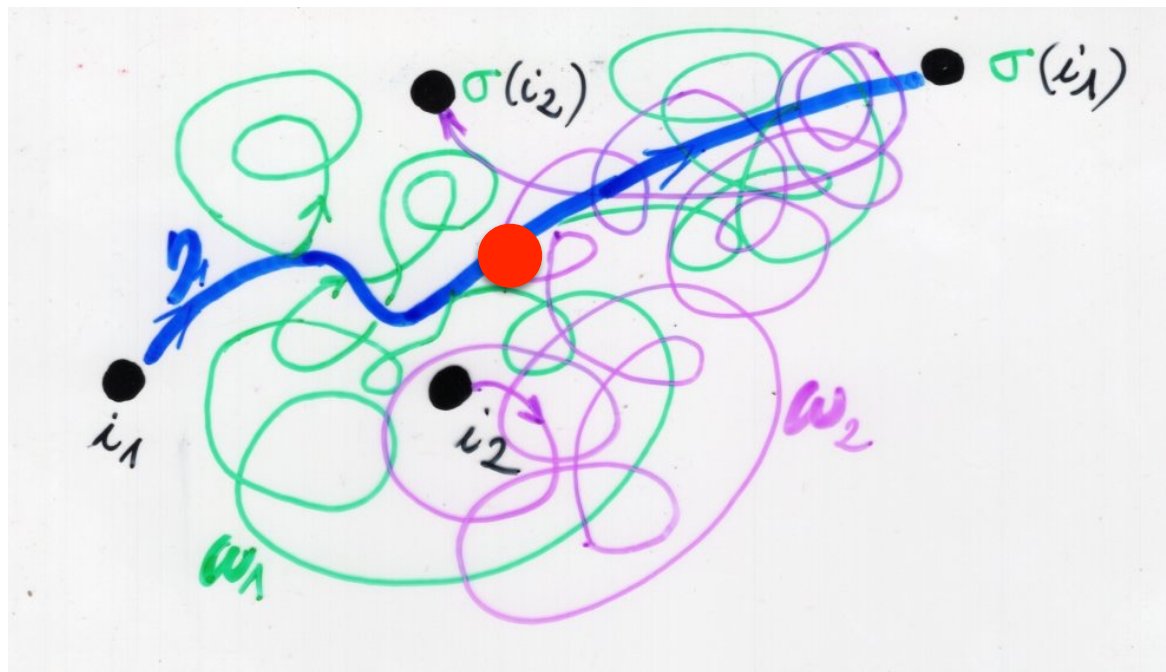
$$i = 1, \dots, l$$

Fomin (2001)

for every  $1 \leq i < j \leq l$   
 $LE(\omega_i) \cap \omega_j = \emptyset$

involution  $\varphi$

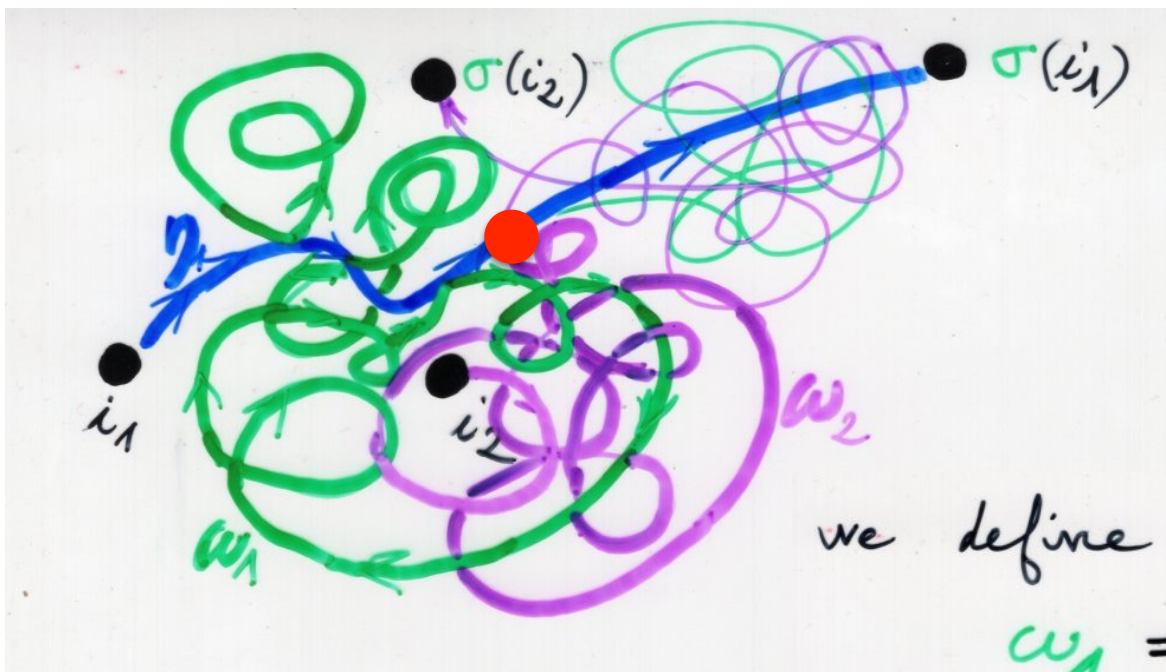
sign-reversing  
weight preserving  
involution



$\omega_1 : i_1 \rightsquigarrow \sigma(i_1)$   
 $\omega_2 : i_2 \rightsquigarrow \sigma(i_2)$

$$\eta_1 = LE(\omega_1)$$

If  $\omega_2$  intersects  $\eta_1$   
 let  $v$  be the first intersection  $\omega_2 \cap \eta_1$   
 following the path  $\omega_2$  from  $i_2$

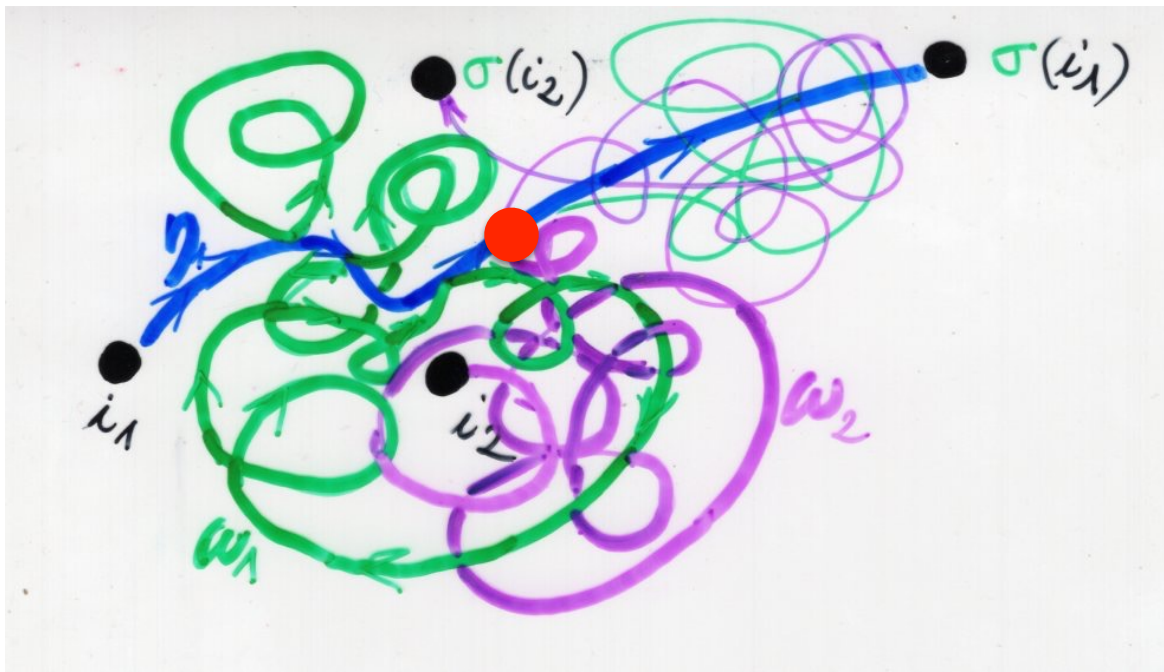


we define a unique factorization

$$\omega_1 = \omega'_1 \vee \omega''_1$$

- if  $v = i_1$ ,  $\omega_1$  is empty
- else, let  $(u, v)$  be the unique edge on the path  $\omega_1$  ending in  $v$ .

Considering the flow  $F(\omega_1)$ , this edge is a maximal edge of the flow, and we cut the path  $\omega_1$  at the last time the path goes through this edge.



$w_2$  can be uniquely factorized  
 $w_2 = (w'_2 \vee w''_2)$  with  $v \notin w'_2$

that is we cut  $w_2$  at the first  
 visit of  $w_2$  at the vertex  $v$

involution  $\varphi$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \omega_1 = \omega'_1 \vee \omega''_1 \\ \omega_2 = \omega'_2 \vee \omega''_2 \end{array} \right\} \rightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \varphi(\omega_1) = \omega'_1 \vee \omega''_2 \\ \varphi(\omega_2) = \omega'_2 \vee \omega''_1 \end{array} \right.$$

$\sigma \rightarrow \sigma'$

exercise

prove that  $\varphi$  is an involution

characterization of  
the factorization  $\omega_1 = \omega'_1 \vee \omega''_1$

- (i) the last entry in the edge sequence of  $\omega'_1 \vee$  contribute to  $LE(\omega'_1 \vee)$
- (ii)  $\omega''_1$  does not visit any vertices of  $LE(\omega'_1 \vee)$



involution  $\varphi$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \omega_1 = \omega'_1 \vee \omega''_1 \\ \omega_2 = \omega'_2 \vee \omega''_2 \end{array} \right\} \rightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \varphi(\omega_1) = \omega'_1 \vee \omega''_2 \\ \varphi(\omega_2) = \omega'_2 \vee \omega''_1 \end{array} \right.$$

$\sigma \rightarrow \sigma'$

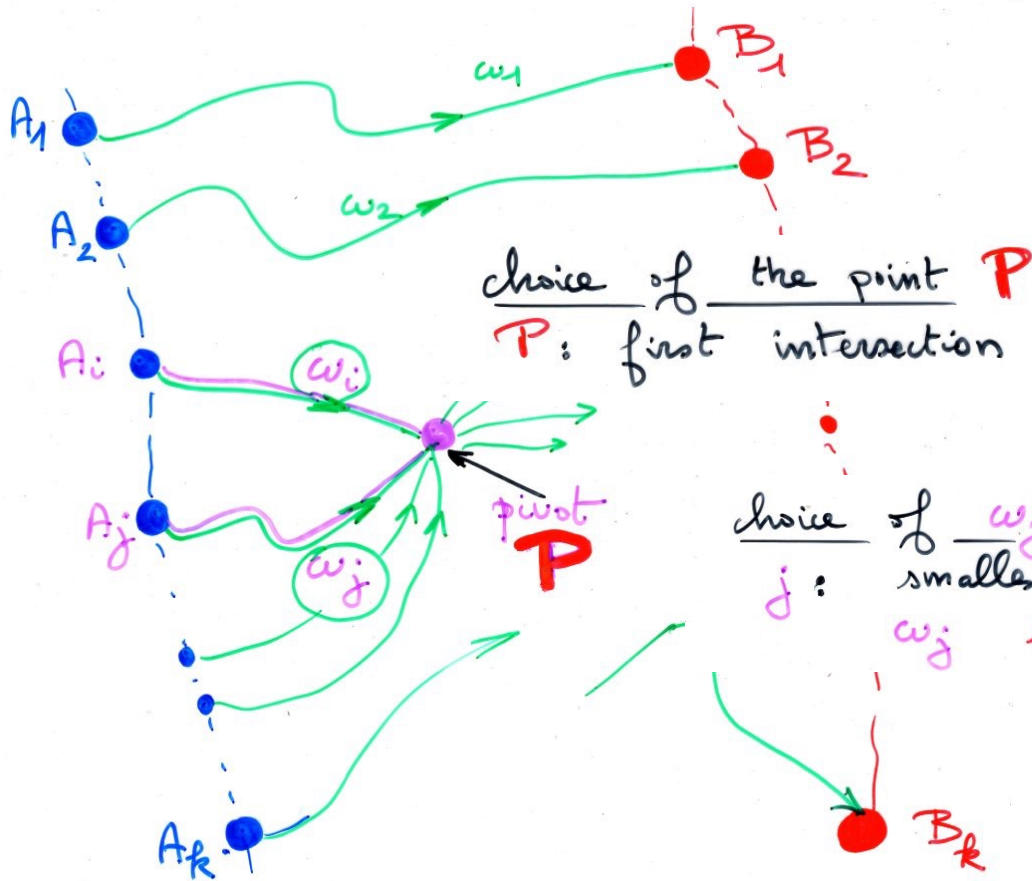
It is a **sign-reversing** and **weight preserving** involution.

$$(-1)^{\text{Inv}(\sigma)} = -(-1)^{\text{Inv}(\sigma')}$$

# extension to several paths

choice of  $w_i$

$i$ : smallest  $i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq k$ , such that  $w_i$  has an intersection with another path



choice of the point P

P: first intersection point on the path  $w_i$

choice of  $w_j$

$j$ : smallest  $j$ ,  $i < j \leq k$  such that  $w_j$  intersect  $w_i$

□  
end  
of proof

proof of the main theorem

(second step)

# Proposition

$$\sum (-1)^{\text{Inv}(\sigma)}$$

$$\sigma \in \mathcal{G}_{I,J}$$

set of bijections  
 $I \rightarrow J$

$$\sum v(\eta_1) \cdots v(\eta_l) v(E)$$

$$\eta_1: i_1 \rightsquigarrow \sigma(i_1)$$

$$\vdots$$

$$\eta_l: i_l \rightsquigarrow \sigma(i_l)$$

self-avoiding paths  
pair-wise disjoint

$E$   
heap of cycles

projection  
 $\pi(m)$   
maximal piece  
of  $E$   
intersect one  
of the path  $\eta$

=

$$\sum (-1)^{\text{Inv}(\sigma)}$$

$$\sigma \in \mathcal{G}_{I,J}$$

set of bijections  
 $I \rightarrow J$

$$\sum v(\omega_1) \cdots v(\omega_l)$$

$$\omega_1: i_1 \rightsquigarrow \sigma(i_1)$$

$$\vdots$$

$$\omega_l: i_l \rightsquigarrow \sigma(i_l)$$

$i = 1, \dots, l$

$$\omega_i \xrightarrow{\chi} (\eta_i, E_i)$$

$$\eta_i = \text{LE}(\omega_i)$$

loop-erased

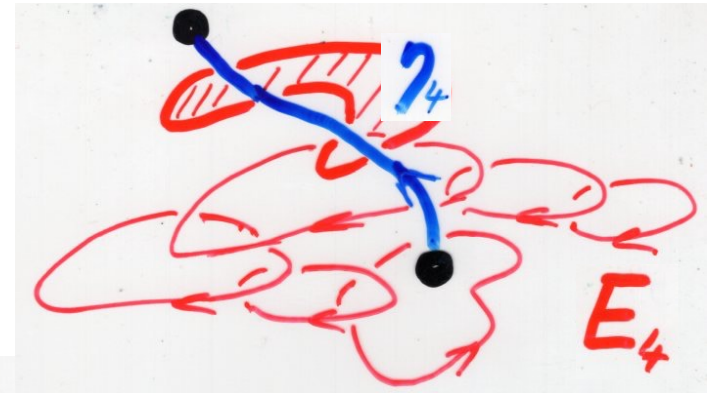
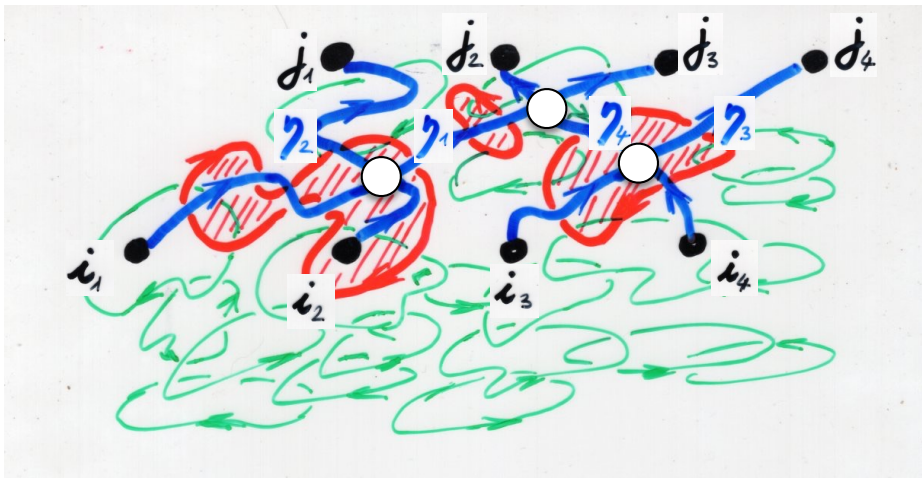
for every  $1 \leq i < j \leq l$   
 $\text{LE}(\omega_i) \cap \omega_j = \emptyset$



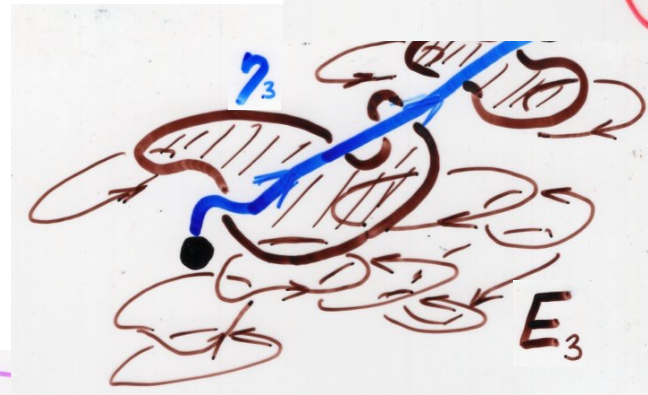
$$(\eta_1, \eta_2, \dots, \eta_\ell; E) \longrightarrow$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 (\eta_1, E_1), (\eta_2, E_2), \dots, (\eta_\ell, E_\ell) & & \\
 \chi^{-1} \downarrow & & \downarrow \chi^{-1} \\
 \omega_1, \omega_2, \dots, \omega_\ell & & 
 \end{array}$$

$$E = E_1 \circ E_2 \circ \dots \circ E_\ell$$

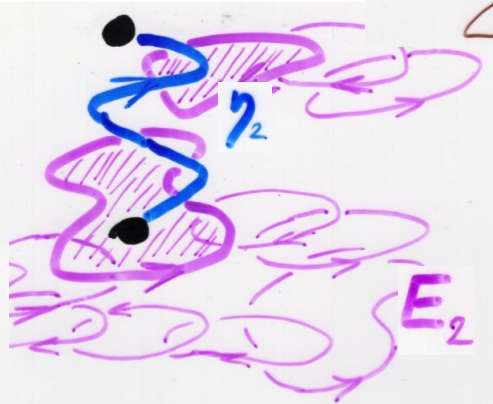
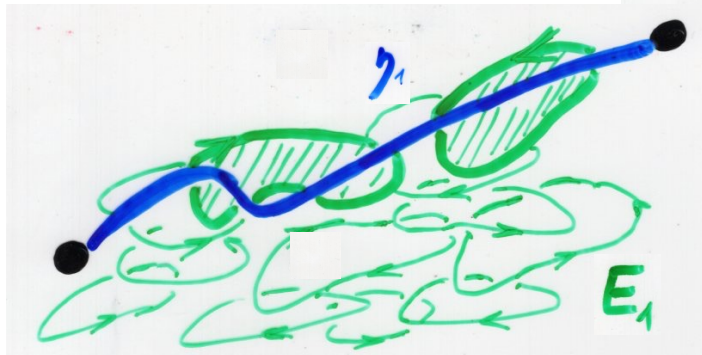


$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 (\gamma_1, E_1), (\gamma_2, E_2), \dots, (\gamma_l, E_l) \\
 \downarrow \chi^{-1} & & \downarrow \chi^{-1} \\
 \omega_1, \omega_2, \dots, \omega_l
 \end{array}$$



for every  $1 \leq i < j \leq l$   
 $LE(\omega_i) \cap \omega_j = \emptyset$

$$E = E_1 \circ E_2 \circ \dots \circ E_l$$



□  
 end  
 of proof

Carrozza, Krajewski, Tanasa (2016)

Grassmann algebra  
integral

$$\begin{aligned}\chi_i \chi_j &= -\chi_j \chi_i \\ \chi_i^2 &= 0\end{aligned}$$

$$\det \left( (1-A)^{-1} [I, J] \right) =$$

$$(-1)^{\Delta(I) + \Delta(J)} \det \left( (1-A) [J, I] \right)$$

---

$$\det (1-A)$$

another way to prove  
the identity

$$\det \left( (1-A)^{-1} [I, J] \right)$$

=

$$(-1)^{\Delta(I) + \Delta(J)} \det \left( (1-A) [\bar{J}, \bar{I}] \right)$$

---

$$\det (1-A)$$



another way to prove  
the identity

$$\det(1-A) \det\left((1-A)^{-1} [I, J]\right) =$$

$$(-1)^{\lambda(I)+\lambda(J)} \det\left((1-A) [\bar{J}, \bar{I}]\right)$$

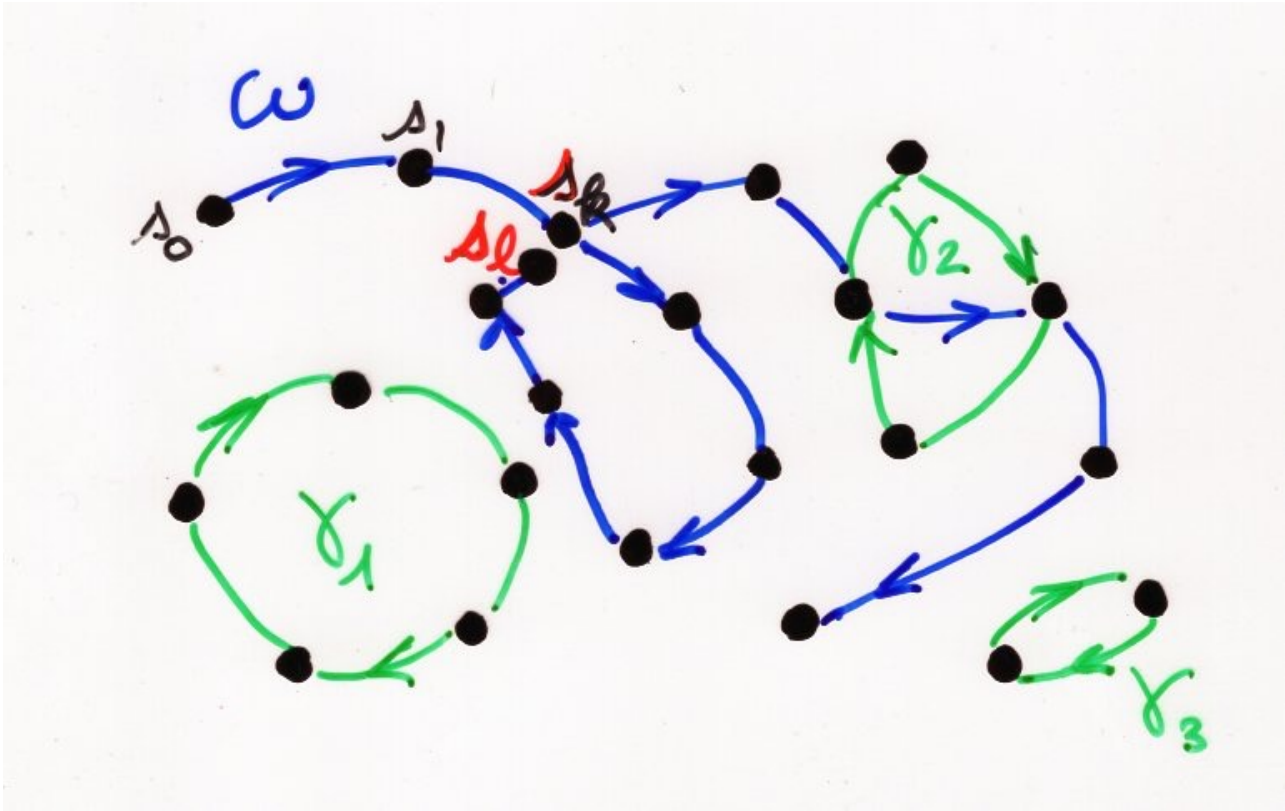
involution  $\varphi$

particular case:

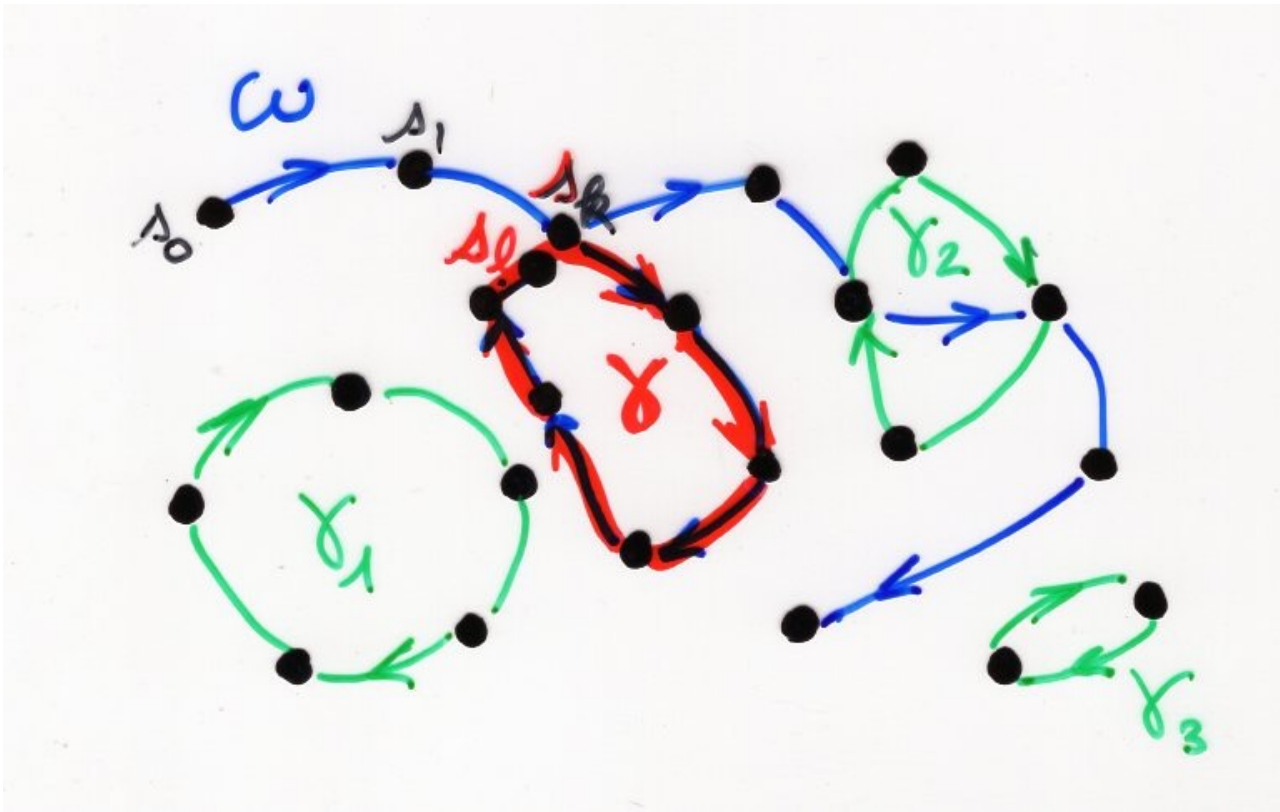
→ Ch 1c, p 9-18  
course IMSc 2016

« direct » bijective proof of the identity

$$\sum_{\substack{\omega \\ \text{path on } S \\ i \rightsquigarrow j}} V(\omega) = \frac{N_{i,j}}{D}$$



involution  $\varphi$



involution  $\varphi$

$$\det(1-A) \quad \det\left((1-A)^{-1} [I, J]\right)$$

$$= (-1)^{\lambda(I)+\lambda(J)} \det\left((1-A) [\bar{J}, \bar{I}]\right)$$

involution  $\varphi$

Lalonde (1996)

Talaska (2012)

network parametrization  
for the Grassmannian

positivity in Grassmannian

Talaska, Williams  
Postnikov Fomin

Abdessalam, Baydges loop ensembles  
Mayer expansion

crossing condition

# (main) Theorem

$$\det \left( (1 - A)^{-1} [I, J] \right) =$$

$$\sum (-1)^{\text{Inv}(\sigma)}$$

$$\sigma \in \mathcal{G}_{I, J}$$

set of bijections  
 $I \rightarrow J$

$$\sum$$

$$\eta_1: i_1 \rightsquigarrow \sigma(i_1)$$

$$\vdots$$

$$\eta_l: i_l \rightsquigarrow \sigma(i_l)$$

self-avoiding  
paths

$$v(\eta_1) \cdots v(\eta_l) v(E)$$

$E$   
heap  
cycles of

projection  
 $\pi(m)$   
maximal piece  
of  $E$   
intersect one  
of the path  $\eta$

pair-wise  
disjoint



Theorem

(C)

crossing  
condition (C)

$$\det \left( (1 - A)^{-1} [I, J] \right) =$$

=

$$\sigma = \text{Id}$$

$$\sum v(\eta_1) \cdots v(\eta_l) v(E)$$

$\eta_1: i_1 \rightarrow j_1$   
 $\vdots$   
 $\eta_l: i_l \rightarrow j_l$   
self-avoiding  
paths

E  
heap of  
cycles

projection  
 $\pi(m)$   
maximal piece  
of E  
intersect one  
of the path  $\eta$



$$\sigma = Id$$

$$\det \left( (1-A)^{-1} [I, J] \right)$$

=

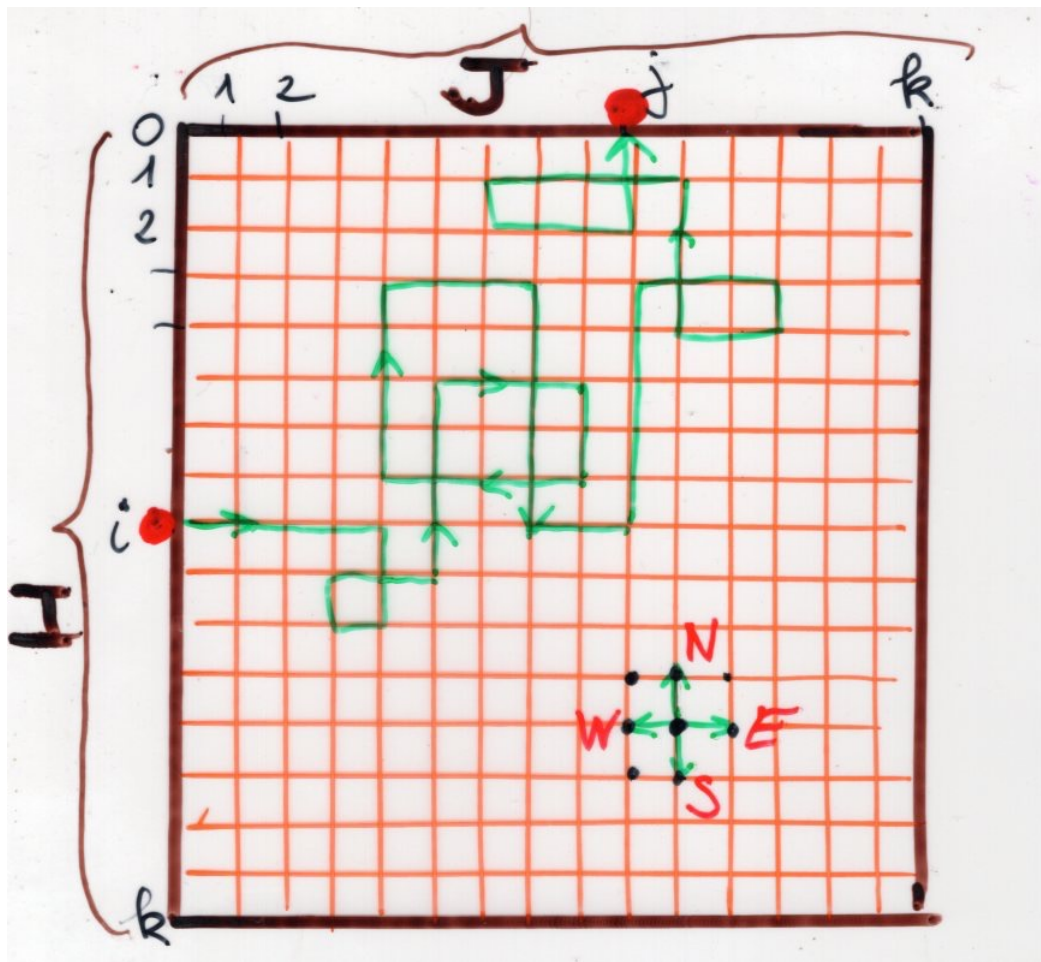
$$\sum v(\eta_1) \dots v(\eta_l) v(E)$$

crossing condition (C)

$\eta_1: i_1 \rightarrow j_1$   
 $\vdots$   
 $\eta_l: i_l \rightarrow j_l$   
 self-avoiding paths

$E$   
 heap of cycles

projection  $\pi(m)$   
 maximal piece of  $E$   
 intersect one of the paths  $\eta$



$$\begin{aligned}
 & (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{A})_{ij}^{-1} \\
 &= \sum_{\omega} v(\omega) \\
 & \quad \substack{\omega \\ i \rightarrow j}
 \end{aligned}$$
  

$$(\mathbf{A})_{(k+1)^2 \times (k+1)^2}$$

$$\det (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{A})_{I, J}^{-1}$$

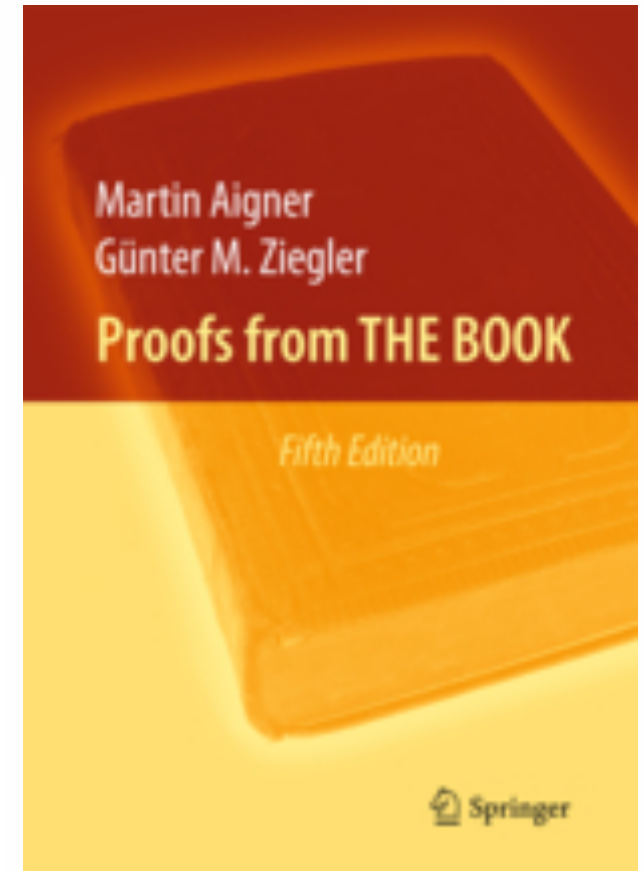
$$= \frac{v(\text{grid})}{\det (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{A})}$$

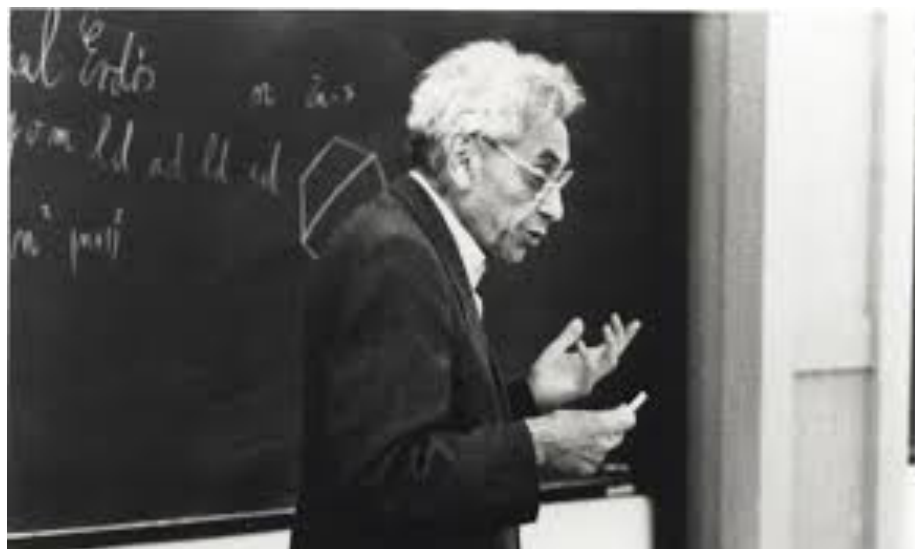
about the name LGV Lemma

# Lattice paths and determinants

## Chapter 29

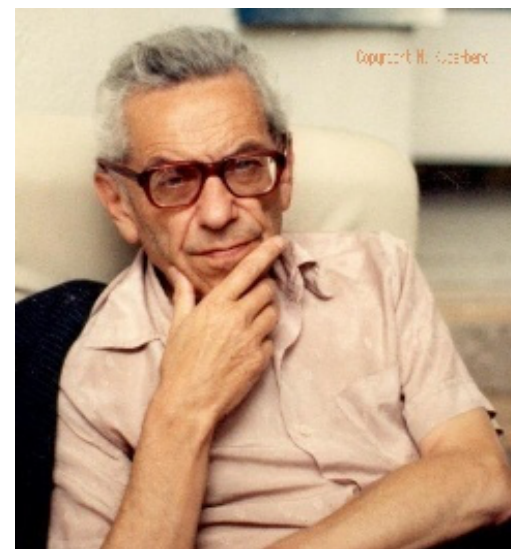
Why « LGV **Lemma** » ?





Paul Erdős liked to talk about The Book, in which God maintains the perfect proofs for mathematical theorems,

Erdős also said that you need not believe in God but, as a mathematician, you should believe in The Book.



# Lattice paths and determinants

## Chapter 29

Why « LGV **Lemma** » ?

The essence of mathematics is proving theorems — and so, that is what mathematicians do: They prove theorems. But to tell the truth, what they really want to prove, once in their lifetime, is a *Lemma*, like the one by Fatou in analysis, the Lemma of Gauss in number theory, or the Burnside–Frobenius Lemma in combinatorics.

Now what makes a mathematical statement a true Lemma? First, it should be applicable to a wide variety of instances, even seemingly unrelated problems. Secondly, the statement should, once you have seen it, be completely obvious. The reaction of the reader might well be one of faint envy: Why haven't I noticed this before? And thirdly, on an esthetic level, the Lemma — including its proof — should be beautiful!

In this chapter we look at one such marvelous piece of mathematical reasoning, a counting lemma that first appeared in a paper by Bernt Lindström in 1972. Largely overlooked at the time, the result became an instant classic in 1985, when Ira Gessel and Gerard Viennot rediscovered it and demonstrated in a wonderful paper how the lemma could be successfully applied to a diversity of difficult combinatorial enumeration problems.



# Why « **LGV** Lemma » ?

from Christian Krattenthaler:

« Watermelon configurations with wall interaction: exact and asymptotic results »

J. Physics Conf. Series 42 (2006), 179--212,

<sup>4</sup>Lindström used the term “pairwise node disjoint paths”. The term “non-intersecting,” which is most often used nowadays in combinatorial literature, was coined by Gessel and Viennot [24].

<sup>5</sup>By a curious coincidence, Lindström’s result (the motivation of which was matroid theory!) was rediscovered in the 1980s at about the same time in three different communities, not knowing from each other at that time: in statistical physics by Fisher [17, Sec. 5.3] in order to apply it to the analysis of vicious walkers as a model of wetting and melting, in combinatorial chemistry by John and Sachs [30] and Gronau, Just, Schade, Scheffler and Wojciechowski [28] in order to compute Pauling’s bond order in benzenoid hydrocarbon molecules, and in enumerative combinatorics by Gessel and Viennot [24, 25] in order to count tableaux and plane partitions. Since only Gessel and Viennot rediscovered it in its most general form, I propose to call this theorem the “Lindström–Gessel–Viennot theorem.” It must however be mentioned that in fact the same idea appeared even earlier in work by Karlin and McGregor [32, 33] in a probabilistic framework, as well as that the so-called “Slater determinant” in quantum mechanics (cf. [48] and [49, Ch. 11]) may qualify as an “ancestor” of the Lindström–Gessel–Viennot determinant.

<sup>6</sup>There exist however also several interesting applications of the general form of the Lindström–Gessel–Viennot theorem in the literature, see [10, 16, 51].



### combinatorics

B. Lindström, *On the vector representation of induced matroids*, Bull. London Maths. Soc. 5 (1973) 85-90.

I. Gessel and X.G.V., *Binomial determinants, paths and hook length formula*, Advances in Maths., 58 (1985) 300-321.

I. Gessel and X.G.V., *Determinants, paths and plane partitions*, preprint (1989)

### statistical physics: (wetting, melting)

Fisher, *Vicious walkers*, Boltzmann lecture (1984)

### combinatorial chemistry:

John, Sachs (1985)

Gronau, Just, Schade, Scheffler, Wojciechowski (1988)

### probabilities, birth and death process,

Karlin, McGregor (1959)

### quantum mechanics: Slater determinant

Slater(1929) (1968), De Gennes (1968)

